

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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Jenni Smith and her horse, Supes, ride up to Cougar Rock during the 24-hour, 100-mile Tevis Cup.

Photo Bill Gore@Gore/Baylor Photography

Moraga woman completes 100-mile endurance horse ride

By Diane Claytor

Earlier this month, Moraga's Jenni Smith rode her horse, Supes, for 20 hours straight ... well, 18 hours if you count the two mandatory rest periods required in the Tevis Cup, a 100-mile equestrian event. And, of the 200 riders, Smith was the 14th to cross the finish line.

The Tevis Cup, an international event Time Magazine once named one of the world's "Top Ten Toughest Endurance Events," is a 24-hour, 100-mile trail ride. It's an annual event, held

as near as possible to a mid-summer Saturday with a full moon because, as Smith explained, "we ride at night and need the moon for light."

Smith is no novice to The Tevis, as it's called. This was her 14th ride and the 11th time she's finished. In the past, she's ridden horses belonging to someone else, "more seasoned, experienced horses," and has finished in the top 10 five times. But this is the first time she rode her own horse – and the first time Supes, an Arabian racehorse, had gone 100 miles. ... continued on page A10

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Advertising

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Opiate antidote now in the hands of Lafayette police

By Nick Marnell

The Lafayette City Council unanimously authorized its police officers Aug. 14 to administer naloxone, a prescription medicine used for the treatment of an opioid emergency, to patients they encounter who show signs of an opioid overdose. The Lafayette police department becomes the first in Contra Costa County to employ trained officers to administer the drug in the field or at the police station.

"Lafayette is at the leading edge with this program," said Cam Burks, the council member with an extensive public safety background. "I support this program because opioids are a serious public safety issue and this program needs to be available to our citizens."

According to Contra Costa Health Services, there were 53 accidental drug overdose deaths in 2003 in Contra Costa County; in 2008 the number jumped to 84 and five years later, 113. Opioid-related

deaths rose from 42 in 2013 to 48 in 2015.

"This is not just a Contra Costa County problem," said Tom Gilmore of Lafayette, who lost his son to an opioid overdose in 2013. "It's also a Lafayette problem, the same way it's been a problem in the United States."

Contra Costa County MEDS Coalition Director Patty Hoyt agreed. "No community is immune," she said.

Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen said that a serious threat exists not only to the public but also to law enforcement officers who come in contact with opioids such as fentanyl, a strong narcotic recently added to street heroin. Just touching or inhaling a small amount of fentanyl can cause an overdose or death. By administering naloxone in the form of Narcan Nasal Spray, the police – often the first people on the scene – can reverse an opioid overdose.

... continued on page A14

Lafayette man killed in Barcelona attack

By Nick Marnell



The Tuckers at a cafe in Barcelona shortly before the terrorist attack Photo courtesy Heidi Nunes-Tucker
The widow of the Lafayette father killed during the Barcelona terrorist attack Aug. 17 has not only positive memories of her late husband but of her home city as well.

Jared Tucker and his wife, Heidi Nunes-Tucker, were enjoying a delayed honeymoon in Europe, celebrating their one-year wedding anniversary. The couple were having drinks along La Rambla, a popular tourist thoroughfare in Barcelona, and as Jared went into a restaurant,

a van barreled past Heidi, zigzagging into a crowd of people, killing 13. The U. S. State Department confirmed that Jared was killed in the attack.

Heidi teaches at the El Sobrante Christian School. "While we are thankful for Heidi's safety, we are hurting for her," said school principal Jeannine Manguiat. "We love her. She is a fabulous teacher. We want to do anything we can for their families during this time and we will continue to pray for all those affected."

"We love them so much," said a shaken Roxanne Smolko of the Roundup Saloon. "They were longtime customers, and such wonderful people. Our deepest condolences to the family."

Heidi has lived in Lafayette for 14 years, near the Lafayette Reservoir. She spoke by telephone from Barcelona. "We loved the Roundup, and we love Lafayette," she said. "Lafayette is incredibly dear to both of our hearts." Heidi said she met Jared at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, they moved on to Petar's that evening and ended the night at the Roundup, dancing till closing. ... continued on page A3

Civic News A1-A14 Orinda council approves short-term housing ordinance – page A6	Life in Lamorinda B1-B8 Local schools allow students a peek at eclipse – page B1.	Sports C1-C4 Football teams return to gridiron this week – page C1.	Our Homes D1-D16 Creating an outdoor summer oasis – page D1.
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Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 6-12

Alarms	39
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	4
Noise Complaints	5
Traffic Stops	48
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subjects	9
Suspicious Vehicles	12
Service to Citizen	13
Abandoned Vehicle	
Via Roble/Dolores Dr.	
Animal Cruelty	
60 Block Lafayette Cr.	
Assault w/ Deadly Weapon	
800 Block Solana Dr. (2)	
Civil Problem	
3500 Block Golden Gate Way	
Commercial Burglary	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Disturbing the Peace	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
3500 Block Brook St.	
Embezzlement	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Fire/EMS Response Info	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Shangri La Rd.	
Found Property	
3700 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Harassment	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3300 Block Springhill Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Brook St.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Nemea Ln.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
Juvenile Disturbance	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Lost Property	
10 Block Wellesley Ct.	
Occupied Stalled Vehicle	
El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.	
Ordinance Violation	
1100 Block Hidalgo Ct.	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
4200 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.	
Phone Harass	
70 Block Silverwood Dr.	
1100 Block Brown Ave.	
Prom Shoot	
Happy Valley School	
3100 Block Rohrer Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
3300 Block Springhill Rd.	
3500 Block Springhill Road	
3900 Block Canyon	
Reckless Driving	
Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave.	
Pleasant Hill Cr./Acalanes Ave.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.	
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Los Arabis Dr.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Subject Stop	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Trespass	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Vandalism	
10 Block Silver Leaf Ct.	

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LPIE is ramped up and ready for the new school year

By Pippa Fisher



Following a new fundraising high for the eighth straight year of over \$3 million in the 2016-17 school year, Lafayette Partners in Education has committed to providing more than \$3.3 million for the upcoming academic year, supporting students in all six Lafayette schools.

A big part of this impressive figure comes from donation matching. Executive Director Myrna Kimmelman said that last year donation matching raised over \$275,000. Many companies are happy to match their employees' donations dollar-for-dollar and

some even reward volunteer hours. Details of how to sign up are on the LPIE website (www.lpie.org).

Founded back in 1980 as the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation by a small group of parents concerned about cutbacks in the budget as a result of Proposition 13, the organization has now grown to 120 volunteers and 100 teachers.

LPIE helps support math, music, art and reading in all Lafayette schools. Last year, among the new programs, LPIE increased funding for math coaching at the elementary schools and for elective supplies at Stanley Middle School.

At Acalanes High School, the program expanded funding for art, science, and music in special education classes, supported a teacher innovation program and provided supplies for a new architectural design elective.

For the next school year, with the increased budget, the program will add support to technology at Acalanes and funding for stress counselors, which is a cost shared with the Acalanes Parent Club. It will continue to support the health educator for the Lafayette School District.

With the increased budget comes an increased "ask" amount for parents this year. LPIE President Amy Parlett says that the new amount requested from families for each student is \$1,000.

"The last seven years it had been \$800 per student. The increased needs by the school districts (due to severely insufficient

and unpredictable state funding) really has put pressure on the community to provide more locally in order to just maintain programs," said Parlett, who noted that although participation from families has dipped slightly in the last few years, the 63 percent participation rate last year is actually quite good for an education foundation. "However, we do hope to raise the percentage this year," she added.

"Our schools are hurting and need our help if we want to maintain the quality of education we are used to in Lafayette. Sadly our schools cannot depend on the state for adequate and consistent funding."

"We have the power to make a significant impact through LPIE whose funding impacts students every day in every classroom TK to 12," Parlett said. "Every donation counts."

Drama as LAFSD appoints trustee to fill vacant board seat

By Nick Marnell

Overcoming the endorsement of a competing applicant by his predecessor and the conflicted feelings of sitting school board members, Rob Sturm was appointed trustee of the Lafayette School District at an Aug. 16 special meeting. Sturm, a labor-employment attorney, replaces recently elected trustee Mark Kindhouse, who took a job in Southern California and resigned from the board in June.

Eight candidates ranging from lawyers to accountants to educators appeared before the board at Stanley Middle School and were asked to explain their priorities, their role and purpose, and the district's biggest challenge. Public comment followed and supporters spoke up for Sturm, Darrick Martin and Kenny Tuckerman, endorsed by Kindhouse in a letter to the board.

Trustee Suzy Pak nominated Sturm for the seat, and two issues dominated the ensuing board discussion: That Sturm deserved credit for being the only applicant who ran for one of the two LAFSD seats during the 2016 general election but that Sturm, though highly qualified, would bring a personality unfit for the board.

David Gerson. "Is he the right fit, and does he have the ability to work with the administration?" Gerson said he sometimes felt chastised by Sturm at board meetings. "We need to maintain respect for one another," Gerson said.

As tension built among the trustees, applicants and the two dozen spectators, Gerson called for a vote on Sturm. Gerson and Pak, who said she had not experienced the problems with Sturm that others had, voted yes immediately. After 15 seconds of strained, fidgety silence, Gerringer voted yes, followed by Meade who made the vote unanimous. Meade declined to comment afterward on the proceedings. ... continued on next page



Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn swears in newly appointed trustee Rob Sturm. Photo Nick Marnell

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LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

Public Notice of Provisional Appointment

The public is hereby notified that the Lafayette School District Governing Board approved the provisional appointment of Charles "Rob" Sturm as Board Member on August 16, 2017, to fill a vacant position created by a Board Member's resignation on June 29, 2017. Unless a petition calling for a special election, containing a sufficient number of signatures, is filed in the office of the county superintendent of schools within 30 days of the provisional appointment, it shall become an effective appointment.

Lafayette School District Executive Assistant, Sharon Carman, at (925) 927-3502.



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SunShares program returns to Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Image provided

For residents considering installing solar energy, the sunny city of Lafayette is once again making choices simpler and more affordable with the return of the SunShares program.

Administered by the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3) and in partnership with 35 cities and companies around the Bay Area, the SunShares program is a limited-time group-buying program intended to reduce the cost and complexity of purchasing various clean energy technologies through both discounts and educational workshops, according to the staff report presented to the city council in June by Lafayette Assistant Planner Julia Koppman Norton.

This year, as it has for the past two years, Lafayette is participating in the program. Residents can take advantage of the program to install solar panels, purchase an electric vehicle or even, new this year, purchase a residential vehicle charging station.

By pooling the buying power of participants SunShares is able to get discounted pricing from solar companies and vehicle manufacturers. This year the program

was able to negotiate a 15 to 20 percent additional discount beyond the companies' initially discounted bulk purchase. The organization pre-vets solar installers and has selected PetersenDean, Solar Technologies and Skytech Solar.

For residents who may be considering installing solar but don't know where to start, SunShares is offering webinars, scheduled throughout August, September and October and the city of Lafayette will be partnering with Walnut Creek and Concord for a SunShares workshop on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 28. Renters can also find out about their options for electricity.

Residents need to register by Nov. 10 to receive a no cost and no-obligation solar proposal and will need to sign a contract by the end of the year with the provider to move forward with solar installation by spring 2018.

For exact dates of workshops and webinars and for more details, residents should go to www.bayareasunshares.org or for questions should contact BC3 at sunshares@bc3sfbay.org.

LAFSD appoints trustee

... continued from page A2

"I understand the board's reservations. I listened carefully," Sturm said after his swearing-in. "I share their view that collaboration is important."

Gerson said that he will work closely with Sturm to bring him up to speed. "Sometimes a campaign can create false impressions of

people," Gerson said. "We had to air that out. Rob will take our comments to heart and there will be no problem."

Sturm's term ends in December 2018 along with all other trustees except for Meade, whose term ends in 2020.

Lafayette man killed in Barcelona attack

... continued from page A1

"What I want people to know is how wonderful Jared was," Heidi said. "He would make friends with anybody. He loved people and people loved him. He would give you the shirt off his back, the beer from his hand or the saw from his tool box."

Jared worked with his father, Dan, at a Martinez pool construction business that operated for years out of the old Rheem fire-

house building in Moraga. "Jared died a happy person," said his father. "The last year of his life with Heidi was the happiest year of his life."

The Tucker family has set up a GoFundMe page. Donations will go directly to Heidi and the three children to pay for their education and living expenses, as well as to assist with funeral costs.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report



Summary covers:

Aug. 2-15

Alarms

11

Accident

8/4 St Mary's Rd/Rheem, two car, non-injury

8/6 Deer Hill/Happy Valley, non-injury

8/7 Location unavailable, vehicle hit pedestrians; minor injuries

Auto Burglary

8/6 Moraga Country Club, purse, credit cards, \$150 cash taken

Domestic Dispute

8/10 Location unavailable, family argument involving alcohol

Fraud

8/8 Reported to police; false Craigslist ad for home rental

8/8 Reported to police; \$480 taken from So. Cal ATM

Hit & Run

8/9 Parking lot; Jeep damaged

ID theft

8/15 Location unavailable; attempt to open credit cards

Incident

8/6 Moraga Country Club; a parent reported her 17-year-old daughter was pushed by an adult; subject apologized; no charges filed.

Larceny

8/7 Location unavailable; \$9,500 in jewelry taken

Medical

8/3 3900 block Campolindo; elderly female hospital transport

Restraining Order Violation

8/9 Location unavailable

Stolen Vehicle

8/14 Location unavailable; an unlocked 2006 Land Rover with keys in the car was stolen from in front of owner's residence.

Suspicious Circumstances

8/10 Orchard Supply; attempted theft of 80 cans of spray paint

8/11 Location unavailable; sounds like a shotgun blast

Theft

8/3 Campo/Natalie Dr; motorcycle stolen; subject crashed vehicle while fleeing; no injuries; he was booked into Martinez jail.

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Moraga's fiscal emergency reasons explained, no solution proposed

By Sophie Braccini

After declaring a fiscal emergency in Moraga last month, and receiving a flood of questions from residents, the town decided to hold a special meeting to address citizen concerns. A large number of Moraga residents crowded the town chambers Aug. 8 to ask questions and hear answers from staff about the declaration, but while Town Manager Bob Priebe and staff responded to many questions, they did not offer solutions. Staff and council believe that remedies can be proposed only after residents are polled on their priorities and a volunteer committee is appointed to study options, steps that should happen in the fall.

Staff received 17 communications from residents making a total of 47 questions that they strived to answer at the meeting, in addition to other concerns brought forth by meeting participants.

Priebe began by reassuring residents that a declaration of fiscal emergency is not a bankruptcy. The town depleted most of its reserves because of two infrastructure failures: the sinkhole at Rheem and the Canyon bridge, but the operational budget was balanced, he said. He

added that the reason for the declaration was to allow the town to place a fiscal measure on the ballot outside of the regular election cycle.

His statement was challenged by residents who claimed that the declaration was hurting property values and was bad public relations, and among council members some said they believed that a fiscal measure would need to be placed on a regular election ballot to ensure wide participation.

Priebe also addressed the fact that employees' salaries were raised just before the declaration. The manager explained that salaries were part of a long bargaining process with the different employee groups and that the unfortunate timing was just a coincidence. He explained that Moraga staff work much harder than other members of surrounding larger public agencies, and with smaller salaries. Priebe went on to explain each staff member's role. Some residents echoed him, recognizing the dedication and hard work of staff. Administrative Director Amy Cunningham indicated that personnel costs represent 63 percent of the

town's expenditures and that pension costs are going down because the employees' contribution rate to the pension plan is increasing.

Some residents expressed their dismay at the town's poor management, while others stigmatized their fellow citizens' lack of understanding of public management and process.

Residents who do not want to see their property tax bills increase proposed scaling down the town's operations, seeking economy of scale by working with neighboring communities, dropping some projects such as the roundabouts on St. Mary's Road, or creating a business improvement district to revitalize the town.

Others wanted to hear more from staff about what is really needed to address the issue of delayed maintenance of the town's infrastructure, and to generate enough revenue to reconstitute a healthy reserve.

Jeanette Fritzky was the only council member who started to question the way things are done in Moraga. She said that she believed Moraga needed to understand the essential services the town cannot

live without, and that an outside auditor would be in a better position to make that diagnostic. Some residents also called for an outside audit of the town's finances.

Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus responded that there was no money to pay for a budget study by an outsider. She added that she had seen staff busy beyond belief, and that she did not need a third party auditor to tell her that "Moraga staff kills it." For her, staff cost is a drop in the bucket; the tens of millions of dollars needed for infrastructure is the most important aspect.

Council Member Dave Trotter said that after the 1 percent sales tax was passed to maintain the roads, a second revenue measure is needed for the storm drains. He added that to do things right a measure should be put on the ballot for a November or June regular election for better participation.

There was no action plan proposed at the end of the meeting. The council members asked residents to stay engaged, as more discussions about solutions will begin soon.

Work begins to simplifying Moraga's commercial approval process

By Sophie Braccini

When Starbucks applied to move its operations into an existing drive-through building nearby, it took 14 months for the town to approve it, recalls Moraga Chamber of Commerce's Vice President Bob Fritzky.

Jay Kerner of Realty Partners who owns that part of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, expressed frustration that Moraga had so many roadblocks, says Fritzky. Kerner's experience with other shopping centers he owns is that the process should have taken no more than four months.

Taking the bull by the horns, the Moraga Town Council decided to work with Kerner and the Chamber of Commerce, and promised that within three months it would review its code to make it more business friendly. The objective according to the Moraga Chamber is to have new retail able to apply with ease in Moraga and to open their businesses quickly thereafter.

Planning Director Ellen Clark is behind this effort to create a Commercial Planned Development District. The idea is simple: The owner of an already developed

multi-tenant commercial area can ask that this become a new CPD. The town lawyer Karen Murphy explained that a CPD can be extensive and define all aspects ruling the area such as setbacks, parking requirements, signage standards, landscaping, building height, as well as permitted types of uses.

A CPD can also be simpler and limited to defining only exterior modifications without changing the design of the center. Murphy added that the more detailed a CPD is, the easier it will be for future tenants to make changes.

Once the CPD is approved by the town council after review by

the design review board and the planning commission, new and replacement businesses will be approved with a discretionary administrative process not requiring any public meeting.

... continued on page A12

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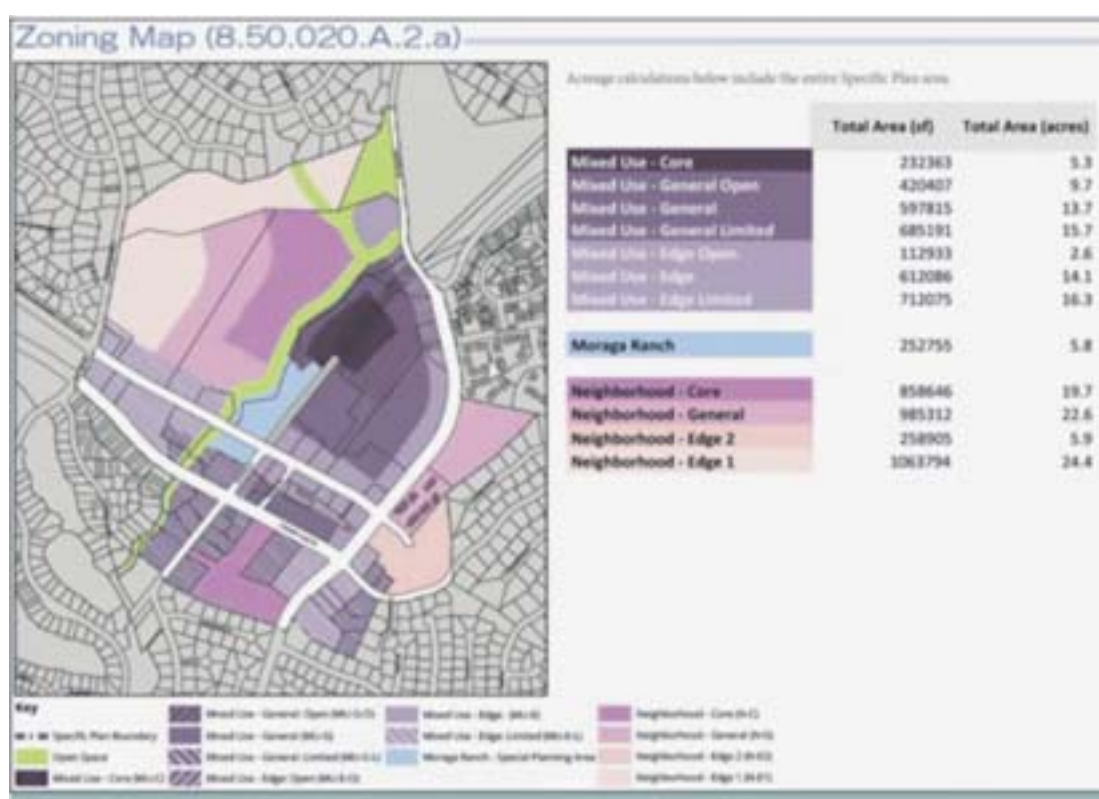
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Controversy over the Moraga Center Specific Plan seems never-ending

By Sophie Braccini



The new zoning for the Moraga Center Specific Plan

Image provided

The town council recently spent several hours discussing the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan. The document approved in 2010 addresses the space located around the crossing of Moraga Road and Moraga Way. As Mayor Teresa Onoda noted, it is appropriate to spend hours debating plan implementation since once built, the plan will forever change the feel of the downtown. Traffic impacts and visual consequences were some of the most discussed aspects by the council members.

The MCSP outlined with large brushstrokes how to build some 600 housing units and add retail and offices in the center of town. But it lacks the details about how to do it. For example, the specifications given to City Ventures to develop Moraga

Town Center Homes condominiums along Moraga Way involve density, but no requirements as far as setbacks or design. What is at stake is crucial: As the town approves zoning rules, it is also approving the future look of Moraga.

The work on the zoning started in 2015. A subcommittee including Onoda and Council Member Dave Trotter has been meeting with consultants from Opticos Design to achieve what is called a form-based zoning code, which defines the aesthetics, as well as specific setbacks, circulation and heights of the entire center.

David Bruzzone and his mother Joan Bruzzone, who own most of the MCSP property, came to the Aug. 9 meeting to express their frustration over what

they see as counterproductive constraints for developers. David Bruzzone said that they would become guinea pigs to these new concepts. He believes that the additional restrictions would make it impossible to build. Joan Bruzzone stated that her family has a plan for the development of the MCSP and that the town is trying to take over their land. Resident Barbara Simpson reminded the council that property rights are a basic right of this country.

Several residents who attended the meeting commented that the 600-plus units planned for the area were too much and would alter the semirural character of the town, while others noted that denser housing in the middle of town would spur economic vitality.

Planning Director Ellen Clark

explained that the MCSP was approved seven years ago after another 10 years of studies and public outreach, and that it was now part of the town's municipal code. She added that changing it today would mean engaging in a very long and costly process.

Some council members declared they had concerns over the consequences of building what is allowed by the plan. Onoda noted that the traffic study that was used to approve the MCSP was based on the assumptions that denser housing would attract downsizing couples or people working in town. She contrasted that expectation with the reality of a development such as Via Moraga that is occupied by families with young children where both parents are working. Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus echoed the traffic concerns, but added that there was no money to order a new study. She stated that the number of units needed to be questioned in light of the traffic impacts.

The proposed zoning presented by Opticos recommends moving the highest density housing to the center of the plan, where the elevation is lower and to design multi-family structures that look like different types of large

single-family homes, up to 45 feet high. The proposal also offers to extend the area limited to three units per acre along Camino Ricardo to make sure that no high buildings are set on the highest elevation grounds now covered by a pear orchard. Vice Mayor Roger Wykle and Council Member Jeanette Fritzky said that a maximum of 45 feet was too high. All agreed that making sure that no tall building be set on higher ground was necessary.

A review of the MCSP is required to create the large green setbacks, to map connecting roads, to create green and civic spaces, and to change the density in some of the areas. The council was asked to decide whether a more substantive revision of the MCSP should be conducted, something that would cost \$250,000 and take over a year to complete.

The council members decided that only minor revisions of the MCSP were necessary and that the design review board and the planning commission would conduct the final work regarding the zoning. All these meetings are open to the public and will be posted on the town's website at moraga.ca.us.

Hacienda Nights

Food Trucks, 5-9pm

8/25 and 9/8

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Special Joint Meeting with City Council
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 30 to Aug. 12

Alarms	65
Noise complaints	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic stops	27
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subjects	7
Suspicious Vehicles	12
Accident	
Rheem Blvd/Zander Dr	
Camino Pablo/Orinda Way	
Animal Cruelty	
70 block Moraga Way	
Barking Dog	
200 block Glorietta Blvd	
Burglary, Auto	
600 block Miner Rd	
Burglary	
500 block Miner Rd	
Disturbance	
10 block Bigleaf Rd	
10 block Valley View Rd	
Dispute	
40 block Hazel Tree Ridge	
Drunk in Public	
10 block Theatre Square	
DUI	
Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way	
Fraud20 block Snowberry Ct	
Flying A Gas (2)	
Harassment	
20 block Orinda Way	
Hazmat	
10 block Sycamore Rd	
Hit & Run	
Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd	
10 block Irwin Way	
ID Theft	
90 block Tiger Tail Ct (2)	
Reported to police	
20 block Muth Dr	
Loitering	
Post Office	
70 block Donald Dr	
60 block Moraga Way	
Misdemeanor	
Safeway	
Police/Fire/EMS	
Estabueno Dr/Moraga Way	
40 block Charles Hill Rd	
10 block Theatre Square	
Panhandling	
60 block Moraga Way	
Public Nuisance	
Safeway	
10 block La Cuesta Rd	
Reckless Driving	
Glorietta Blvd/Meadow Ln	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave	
San Pablo Dam Rd/	
Bear Creek (2)	
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd	
Miner Rd/Honey Hill Rd	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd	
Robbery	
Orinda Fields/Wilder Rd	
Robbery, strongarm	
700 block Geary St	
Theft, Grand	
10 block Ardilla Rd	
Threats	
40 block Calvin Dr	
Trespass	
300 block Camino Sobrante	
Orinda Country Club	
20 block Heather Ln	
Vandalism	
200 block Orchard Rd	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
40 block Via Farallon	
Welfare check	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
100 block Las Vegas Rd	
20 block Heather Ln	



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Orchard Road detour ends; ordinances on short-term rentals, marijuana approved

By Sora O'Doherty

Two weeks after Orchard Road residents besieged the Orinda City Council with tales of traffic woes due to the detour onto their street from Moraga Way during East Bay Municipal Utility District pipe repairs, EBMUD came back to the council with plans to shorten the work down to three days. Orchard Road residents begged the council to end the detour immediately, even before the work was completed, to salvage a few days of summer for their children, even

if that meant creating long delays for vehicles traveling on Moraga Way, and even if it meant that the repair work would not be completed until a much later date.

A number of EBMUD representatives appeared before the council at the Aug. 15 meeting to also discuss water quality, but Clifford Chan, manager of maintenance and construction, and Tim Harris, maintenance and construction superintendent joined Kathryn Horn, community affairs representative, to discuss

how the repair work to Moraga Way could be expedited, or, if the days and times of work were to be shortened, how long the project would be extended. Although the council clearly felt the pain of the Orchard Road residents, they decided to keep the detour in place, with EBMUD's promise to complete the repairs, except for necessary repaving, within three days. According to Orchard Road resident Lynn Ballou, the work was completed and the detour onto Orchard Road ended on

Friday, Aug. 18.

The council also discussed ordinances involving short-term rentals and regulation of marijuana cultivation at its Aug. 15 meeting. A registration plan for short-term rentals in Orinda and collection of Transient Occupancy Tax will be tried out under a new ordinance approved by the city council. Planner Daisy Allen presented the revised draft to the city council and was praised for her clear and useful presentation.

... continued on page A14

Orinda residents flock to food trucks to feast

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Street Feast, the first of the trial food truck events approved by the Orinda City Council, was a huge success, with long lines of people waiting to order, while others sat and enjoyed their meals in the evening sunshine Aug. 17 in front of the Orinda Community Center. Many children were present, obviously also enjoying the evening out, even if some found the food a tad too spicy. Laura McDowell of What's Up Downtown Orinda was on hand, enjoying a glass of white wine from The Guzzler truck. “We are really excited about the turnout, especially given the fact that a lot of people are still out of town since school hasn't started,” she said, adding, “Hopefully the momentum will build and create a new Orinda tradition.”

While the event appeared popular with Orindans, local restaurateurs were a bit taken aback by the project at first but are getting into the spirit of things by starting a project of their own: Dine Out Orinda will offer patrons a 10 percent discount on some upcoming Thursday evenings. Having only learned about the food truck event from a Chamber of Commerce newsletter, business owners met with Chamber Executive Director Sophie Braccini, Interim City Manager Steve Salomon and Planning Director Drummond Buckley and others to discuss the situation. Although the meeting started out a bit rocky, Salomon said, it turned around by the end, with the plan for the dining out promotion coming together and plans for two additional meetings in September to talk about ways that the city, chamber, and restaurant owners can enhance restaurant business in the community and about the food trucks, and how the restaurants might get involved in that as well.

There is potential to have a very good outcome, according to Salomon, who suggested that the Dine Out Orinda plan could be extended to other kind of events, such as the Fourth of July or Cal Shakes. Salomon noted that local restaurants in Berkeley, for example, offer discounts to patrons of Berkeley Repertory Theatre. In the past, he said, Orinda folks haven't worked together as well as they could, and he hopes to see that change.

... continued on page A14



Families don't mind waiting in line for food while chatting on the warm summer evening Aug. 17 in front of the Orinda Community Center on Orinda Way. Photo Sora O'Doherty

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The 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
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"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 9th, 10am-3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.



Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: The Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Community Foundation and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 8th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Mechanics Bank**.

Route 66

Our all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. You'll enjoy "Route 66" cocktails, sample regional cuisines like St. Louis BBQ and feast your eyes on the coolest collection of classic Corvettes west of the Mississippi! Great music, silent and live auctions will round out the evening.

This community-wide fundraiser benefits our schools, our seniors, the arts, our parks, recreation programs, and more!

Buy your tickets at:
www.OrindaCarShow.com
Space is limited so don't wait.
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 9th, 10am - 3pm
13TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way
- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- Arriving at 1 p.m., there will be an outstanding exhibit of classic Corvettes - cars from the 50's, 60's to today - driving into the middle of the show. If you experienced last year's rolling Ferrari exhibit, you know this will be really exciting! Special thanks to the Diablo Valley Corvette Club for their support and assistance developing this year's special exhibit.
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Load's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2017 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and other local charities.

See a 1pm visit of over 60 years of Corvettes – driving into the middle of the show – from the 50's to today!



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Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!

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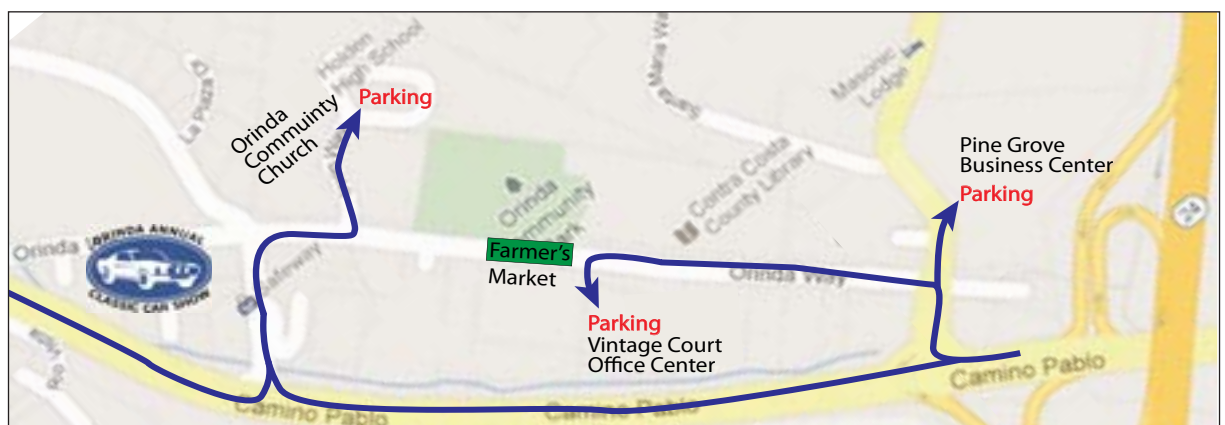
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CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

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Stretch Andersen	David Dierks	Mark and Mary Maxson	Bob Schmalz
Syd Anderson	Anthony DREWITZ	Todd Mercer	Greg Sisk
Nancy and Bob Bishop	Jill Gelster	Pete Michaelides	Jeff Smith
Kevin Bixler	Steve Giacomini	Ken Miller	Tom Steinberger
Barbara and Jack Bontemps	Karen Derr Gilbert	Jim Mitchell	Steve Strand
Boy Scout Troop 303	Susan and Steve Glynn	Ed Moffatt	John Vanek
Sue Breedlove	Lincoln Haley	Tom Pearson	Craig Volpe
Tom Brzezinski	Steve Harwood	Allen Pennebaker	Marie and Bill Waterman
Sheila and Scott Butler	Carolyn and Chip Herman	Greg Pritchard	Kate Wiley
Betsy and Greg Chovanes	Sally Hogarty	Terry Ranahan	Brandt Williams
Steve Corbitt	Sylvia Jorgensen	Debbie and Wayne Rechnitz	Rick Woodward
Bill Cosden	Stu Kahn	Kriste Roeth	Willow Bunting
	Aileen and Mark		

CLASSIC CAR SHOW PARKING

- Orinda Community Church and Holden High School, Irwin Way
- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
- Pine Grove Business Center, Santa Maria Way



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Opening Night

Thursday September 7, 6:00PM Rheem Theatre

20th Annual California Independent Film Festival

6:00PM Opening Night Mixer
meat and cheese platters from Cine Cuvée and sushi from Sushi Fighter.
Tickets \$30

6:30PM – 2017 Slate Award Announcements

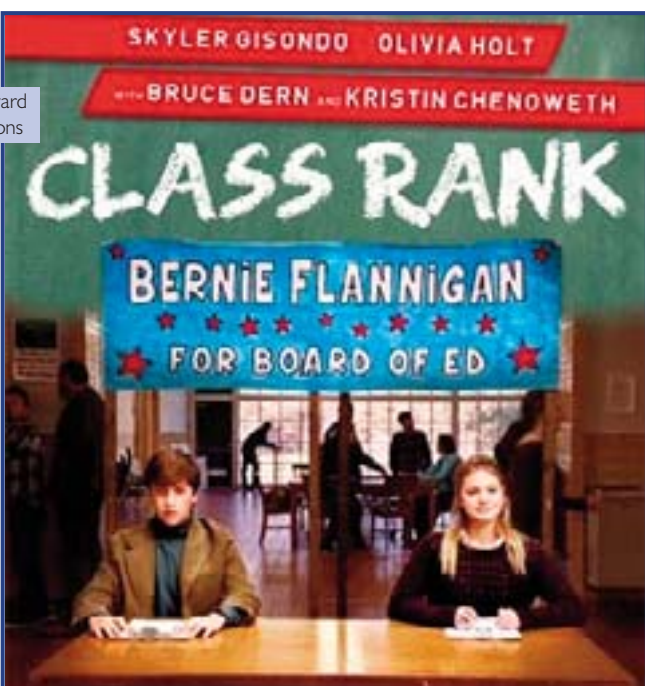
Opening Night Feature Film:

Class Rank

101 min., USA, Comedy/Drama, Northern California Premiere

Director: Eric Stoltz
 Producer: Shaun Sanghani, Sandy Stern
 Director: Nathan Adloff

Bernie is back! Bernard “Bernie” Flannigan that is, in this delicious and supremely satisfying indie comedy / civics lesson / pair of teenagers and grandparents falling in love - in age appropriate ways! The film, starring Bruce Dern, Kristin Chenoweth, Olivia Holt, and Skyler Gisondo, has been compared to the work of Wes Anderson and John Hughes. Directed by Eric Stoltz.



5 Slate Award Nominations

Opening Night Short Film:

Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber

6 min, Drama, USA, Northern California Premiere
 Director: Svetlana Cvetko
 Executive Producer: Elizabeth Banks

“Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber” examines the achievements of the highest paid silent film director at Universal in 1916, a woman by the name of Lois Weber. It is told through the fictionalized character of a young magazine photographer who hopes to impress her.



1 Slate Award Nomination

Ticketing:	Tickets are available at the Lamorinda Theatre's box offices or online at caiff.org
All Access Pass \$250	CAIFF in San Francisco September 15 & 16 see more information online at caiff.org
Opening Night Movie and Mixer \$30	Join CAIFF membership at caiff.org
As Good as It Gets \$30	
General Admission \$12	

All CAIFF movies are **FREE** for Leading Role Members

Most films are not rated and many contain adult material. You are in the best position to make the decision about what is appropriate for your children. We recommend that you research the films before attending the screening with your children.

Some of the 57 Film presented during the Film Festival:

Rheem Theatre, Fri. Sept. 8, 8:30 PM – Feature Film

The Last Poker Game
 85 min. – Comedy/Drama – USA
 Northern California Premiere
 Director: Howard Weiner, Producers: Marshall Johnson, Peter Pastorelli, Eddie Rubin, Howard Weiner
 1st Time Filmmaker
Director Howard Weiner will be in attendance.
 Dr. Abe Mandelbaum (Martin Landau) has just moved into a new manor with his ailing wife. After forming an unlikely friendship with a womanizing gambler (Paul Sorvino), their relationship is tested when they each try to convince a mysterious nurse that they are her long-lost father.



Orinda Theatre, Sat. Sept. 9, 12:00 PM
Rheem Theatre, Mon. Sept. 11, 6:30 PM – Documentary

Mothers in the Middle
 56 min., Documentary, USA
 Director: Lauren Hollingsworth, Producer: Inbal B. Lessner, Lauren Hollingsworth, Jamar Ghalayini
Director Lauren Hollingsworth will be in attendance.
 Four women juggle busy careers and raucous kids in this intimate portrait of middle-class working mothers. Filmmaker Lauren Hollingsworth explores the impossible balance of work and motherhood in today's America, as seen through the eyes of a teacher, a real estate agent, a fashion executive and an actress.



Orinda Theatre, Sat. Sept. 9, 4:00 PM – Feature Film

As Good as It Gets
 Director: James L. Brooks, Producers: James L. Brooks, Bridget Johnson, Kristi Zea
 A single mother/ waitress, a misanthropic author, and an artist form an unlikely friendship after the artist is assaulted in a robbery.

Oscar Winner, Helen Hunt will be in attendance for a conversation following the movie.

Orinda Theatre, Sat. Sept. 9, 8:00 PM – Feature Film

Bye Bye Germany
 102 min., Comedy/Drama, Germany
 Director: Sam Garbarski, Producers: Roshanak Behesht Nedjad, Sebastien Delloye, Jani Thiltges
 David Berman and his friends, all Holocaust survivors, have only one purpose: to go to America as soon as possible. However, they need money. Close to his aim, David is not only deprived of his savings but is also overtaken by his shady past.



Orinda Theatre, Sun. Sept. 10, 5:00 PM – Feature Film

Jasper Jones
 105 min., Drama, Australia
 Director: Rachel Perkins, Producers: David Jowsey, Vincent Sheehan
 A coming of age story about Charlie Bucktin, a bookish boy of 14. On the night that Jasper Jones, the town's mixed-race outcast shows him the dead body of young Laura Wishart, Charlie's life is changed forever. Cast includes Toni Collette, Angourie Rice, Levi Miller and Hugo Weaving.



Rheem Theatre, Thur. Sept. 14, 7:15 PM – Feature Film

The Congressman
 98 min., Comedy, Drama, USA
 Directors: Jared Martin, Robert Mrazek, Producers: Johanna Giebelhaus, Jared Martin, Robert Mrazek, Fred Roos
 Maine Congressman, Charlie Winship has had a bad day. After being caught on video failing to stand and recite the pledge of allegiance, he knocks out another House member, confronts his angry ex-wife, and faces denunciation by the media for attacking one of the most cherished patriotic symbols in America. As his life spirals out of control, Charlie embarks on a journey to a remote island in the Atlantic.



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New facilities brighten OUSD campuses

By Sora O'Doherty



One of several environmentally-friendly Gen7 modular buildings placed on Orinda Union School District campuses this summer. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Several items were discussed at the Aug. 14 Orinda Union School District board of trustees meeting, including requests for restoration of advanced courses, board member assignments to specific schools and facility upgrades to Orinda campuses.

It might have been “no more pencils, no more books” for the students, but summertime meant that Stuart House, Orinda Union School District director of facilities and his staff were extremely busy. New, environmentally friendly Gen7 modular build-

ings were placed at Glorietta and Del Rey elementary schools. Glorietta Elementary first-grade teacher Erin Miller is thrilled with her room in the new building. She is especially enthusiastic about the lighting, which includes natural light solar tubes that can be completely closed and electric lights that can run at 100 percent, 50 percent, or just 10 percent. The large solar panels on the buildings provide the energy for the lighting, heating and air conditioning. ... continued on page A10

Seeking calm at midday

By Sora O'Doherty



Participants of the noontime meditation practice Aug. 15 at Atma Yoga share a moment of calm. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Amid the hustle and bustle of the busy *vie* quotidienne, or everyday life, it is possible to find a beneficial space of calm and peace in Orinda at noon on Tuesdays. That is the day that Gabriela Mozee offers a free meditation group at Atma Yoga. Owners Carlo and Thea Fiatarone opened the studio last May and were enthusiastic when the Orinda Chamber of Commerce suggested the project, initially for local business owners, but now open to the general public. Al-

though the session is free – Mozee and the Fiatarones are offering their services without charge – donations are accepted and in August were being given to Mindful Littles, a Lamorinda nonprofit group that provides family community services around meditation and mindfulness. Carlo Fiatarone says that they are also open to directing the donations to other community service groups in the future.

... continued on page A10

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633 MICHAEL LN | LAFAYETTE
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Shellie Kirby | CalBRE#01251227



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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

City Council pushes for completion of Lafayette fire station

By Nick Marnell



ConFire Assistant Chief Aaron McAlister updates the Lafayette City Council on Fire Station 16 progress. Photo Nick Marnell

Despite a construction glitch that surfaced at the beginning of August, an official from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District told the Lafayette City Council Aug. 14 that Fire Station 16 should open as scheduled by the end of 2018.

Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister told the council that the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District has delayed approval of the fire

station plans because a neighboring property has a lateral sewer line on ConFire's property. "We knew about it, the architect knew about it, the civil engineer knew about it," McAlister said. "They want us to dig up the lateral to make sure it's where we say it is. That seems unreasonable."

According to Central San, an easement for a neighboring sewer lateral lies across the fire district

property and Central San needs to confirm that the neighboring property will continue to have sewer access. "None of our requirements are unusual," said Chris Carpenter, a Central San representative. "We have to maintain service for the neighboring property."

McAlister said the county will not do a plan review on the project until the fire district receives every approval from every agency.

"Can you emphasize with the county how important this issue is, and to expedite it for the sake of public safety," said Council Member Cam Burks, who also asked for assurance that the county was still fully committed to the financing of the station. McAlister said that he believes ConFire has the full support of the board.

Supervisor Candace Andersen later provided further confirmation, noting that with property tax revenues rebounding and with the success of the ConFire-American Medical Response partnership to provide ambulance service, the fire district is in a far better place than it was five years ago when the board closed fire stations. "I am confident that the full of Board of Supervisors is supportive of the rebuilding of Fire Station 16," Andersen said. "Over the past year we have approved several expenditures for the design of the fire station which have been accompanied with estimated costs for construction. All votes have been unanimous in support."

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Moraga woman completes 100-mile endurance horse ride

... continued from page A1

"My goal was simply to finish the ride," she said.

Describing herself as one of those "horse-crazy kids who only wanted to see horses," Smith began riding when she was quite young and living in Arizona. "I have amazingly wonderful parents who indulged my passion and would take me to ride rented horses on weekends," she said. Moving to Santa Rosa, she started taking riding lessons and by middle school, had saved up enough money to buy her own horse, "an Arabian, which is how I got stuck on this particular breed. I loved her, loved her personality," Smith remembered fondly.

She now owns three Arabians, housing two at the Moraga Horsemen's Association pasture, while the third, the youngest, is being trained at a ranch in Brentwood. "Endurance is what Arabians are best at," Smith noted. "They're very energetic, light, handle heat well and do really well in long, hard rides."

And The Tevis, which has been an annual event since 1955, is exactly that – a long, hard ride. Sponsored by the Western States Trail Foundation, it's described as an "endurance riding event of distinction ... one of the world's best tests of true horsemanship. It's the world's best known and most difficult equestrian endurance ride." As one blogger wrote, "... it may be difficult to believe that people would actually do this sport on purpose."

The ride begins at 5:15 a.m. on Saturday when riders mount their horses and take off on a historic trail over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, "through some of the most beautiful country you can imagine on the backside of Squaw Valley," Smith said. Wendell Robie, one of the founders, said the ride was on a "majestic riding trail penetrating the wild beauty of mountain peaks

and valleys."

Although riders typically take off just south of Truckee (7,000 feet elevation), this year, because of all the snow, the start of the Aug. 5 event was moved to Soda Springs. Climbing to elevations of more than 18,000 feet from the starting point in Soda Springs and then descending almost 23,000 feet, the ride concludes in Auburn. Much of the historic route passes along narrow mountain trails through remote and rugged wilderness territory.

While approximately 200 riders begin the ride, typically only half actually finish, Smith reported. Some horses get pulled off the trail, some people get sick, some decide it's simply too much. "It's a very rocky, challenging course," Smith said. And the ride must be completed by 5:15 a.m. Sunday; riders coming in past that time don't get credit for a completion.

There are two mandatory one-hour holds, as well as several quick "gate and go" stops, where both riders and horses have a chance to rest and eat. Veterinarians are at each stop, checking the horses' health before releasing them to continue.

This year, Smith crossed the finish line 20 hours after she began. "That's about as long as I want to

be out there," she admitted. The winning horse, one that Smith had previously ridden, arrived almost four hours earlier. In fact, when Smith rode him in 2015, she was presented the Haggin Cup, a very prestigious award given by the vets, who, after carefully examining the first 10 horses to finish the ride, choose the one that is in the best physical condition. "That was the pinnacle of my endurance career," Smith proudly stated. "It means I rode him 100 miles, at speed, and he still looked great."

Smith has a nine-person crew, which helps before and during the ride and then celebrates her completion afterward. The Tevis Cup organizers call riders' crews the true "unsung heroes of the Tevis ... your work is equally as difficult and exhausting as your rider's and you spend all day supporting and encouraging him/her on the journey of a lifetime."

And, after all the hard work, sore bodies, exhaustion and stress, every Tevis finisher receives a silver buckle. Or, as Gilbert Cruz wrote in the June 14, 2010 issue of Time Magazine, "That's right: 100 miles in 24 hours. For a belt buckle."

OUSD

... continued from page A9

The multipurpose building at Orinda Intermediate School was completely renovated with a newly refinished gym floor, new interior double doors, new wall veneer and paint, and transformation of the old kitchen into an exercise room for yoga and exercise machines. The OIS library has been reconfigured with 21st century furniture and a new split system HVAC replaced the old, dysfunctional boiler. Del Rey got a new playground with striping, planting and seating, a new electronic marquee sign, new 21st century classroom furniture and additional basketball hoops and a ball wall.

Glorietta's old computer lab has been transformed into a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) classroom with new furnishings and equipment, the lower sports field has been ren-

ovated, the lower play area got new poured-in rubber surfacing, and kindergarten, first and fifth grades got new 21st century furniture.

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School got a new electronic marquee sign, new rubber surfacing for five playgrounds, 21st century classroom furniture for fifth-graders, and a new modular toilet building for adults. The mudslide at the entry driveway to Wagner Ranch Elementary School was repaired and new security cameras installed along the driveway and by the gymnasium. Wagner Ranch also got a new electric marquee sign, new rubber surfacing for the playground, new equipment for the upper grades playground, and new storage cabinets in pod hallways.

In addition to facilities upgrade announcements, the board heard from a number of students and

parents during the public forum portion who urged the the school board to restore advanced Spanish language classes at Orinda Intermediate School and, if necessary, to hire another teacher for those classes. Board Member Cara Hoxie responded to their concerns by asking that the matter be placed on the agenda for a future meeting, and the board agreed to do so.

The board also assigned members to a particular schools as the meeting. The assignments rotate each year so board members become familiar with all the schools in the district. For the upcoming school year the assignments are as follows:

- Del Rey—Carol Brown
- Glorietta—Julie Rossiter
- OIS—Cara Hoxie
- Sleepy Hollow—Hillary Weiner
- Wagner Ranch—Jason Kaune

Seeking calm at midday

... continued from page A9

Mozzee is an experienced meditation facilitator, who has been practicing and studying meditation for decades. In 2002, she began meditation with The Natural Path/Sahaj Marg and became an advanced trainer with Heartfulness.org. She has attended many silent retreats, and has facilitated many workshops of Reconciliation of Opposites and other journaling

techniques. She has traveled the world and has been to India seven times in the last decade to pursue her studies and has become a translator for a five-week program for beginner meditators who come from Central and South America and Spain. "Facilitating groups that include psychiatrists, counselors, teachers, engineers, computer programmers and the entire spec-

trum of careers," Mozzee says, she is grateful to hear from them that they gain much from the pointings, or teachings, she shares.

Atma Yoga Studio is located at 99 Brookwood Road in Orinda. Call to confirm the fall schedule if you are interested in attending. Atma can be reached at (925) 317-3302 or info@atma.studio.

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Letters to the Editor

Seeking answers to Moraga's fiscal emergency

I want to voice my disappointment in the Town Council Meeting on August 8, 2017. I expected to be informed on research the Council had done and proposed optional remedies facing Moraga's Financial Emergency.

When I suggested that the Town hire someone with strong financial/organizational skills from the outside with no skin in the game and team up with local volunteers with similar skills I was told the Town does not have the time or money to do so. My concern is the current staff and Town Council as hard as they work need outside guidance to bring us a sound financial plan. The findings of the Ad Hoc Committee will be either find no changes needed other than additional revenue, find tuning the staff or major reorganization needed along with additional revenue.

I am concerned the Town is talking to an outside company to help determine how much the residences are willing to pay in increased taxes and then assist in getting it on the ballot to be passed. I would rather have our tax dollars spent on hiring an outside Financial Adviser to make recommendations as to how to resolve the current crisis.

I was very upset in the way in which Mr. Freeman was treated. He made some excellent recommendations to address the Financial Emergency. A Council Member asked him to return to the podium and proceeded to cross examine him in regard to his media relationships. The way he was treated was not a high point for the Town of Moraga.

The only way I would vote for a Tax Increase is after all avenues have been studied by a Financial Consultant working with a Financial Committee.

Barry Behr
Moraga

Request for quiet arrival from some swim meet revelers

As a resident near Campolindo High School, one of the most life-affirming and joyful sounds in the world is the cheering of parents and children at the annual OMPA swim meet in August. Our family participated in this meet for 13 years and it brought us many enduring positive memories. Despite the traffic and vehicles parked everywhere, I am grateful that we in Moraga are the host of this meet and provide a venue for one of the largest recreational swim competitions in the United States.

While 99 percent of the parents save their energy and enthusiasm for the swim meet, 1 percent of you feel the need to honk your horns at 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning to announce your arrival. Please show a modicum of respect for the citizens of Moraga and refrain from this activity. We know that you are here by the stream of cars entering our town.

I am hopeful, that in the future, the first thing I will hear on Saturday morning is the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and the excitement of children and parents just prior to competition. Then, as my son used to say, we can all get that "big, fun feeling."

Dan Wood
Moraga

California's bail reform bills

Lamorinda, California needs our voice! Thousands of moms and dads in the US currently sit in jail, awaiting trial away from their families because they can't afford bail. But right now, California is considering two bills that would make this injustice history.

Every year, defendants lose their jobs, their homes, and even their children because they don't have the money for bail. Many take plea bargains to avoid these losses, even if they are innocent. Low income defendants and people of color suffer the most. Is it justice that those with money can easily get out of jail and go about their lives, while those without must remain and lose even more? Especially when studies have shown us that people of color are often assigned higher bail? For families that manage to gather the bond fee, the burden of paying it off can last years, and balloon into thousands of dollars more as they try to dig their way out from under the interest.

On the financial side, it costs taxpayers about \$100 per day to hold a defendant in jail pretrial, and abolishing cash bail would save us this money. Some argue against this proposal, saying it would cost taxpayers money. Even if this is true, I would rather pay a few extra dollars a year than have a single mom of two arrested for an unpaid traffic ticket sit in jail long enough to lose her job. What about you?

It is telling that AB 42's and SB 10's greatest opponents are found in California's bond industry. They argue their industry will collapse if this bill passes. Are we willing to ruin the lives of innocent people in order to continue funding the bond business? Some things are just more important than money and jobs. California is one of several states currently considering laws to ban cash bail. Let's set an example for the rest of the US. Contact your representatives and tell them to support these bills today!

State Senator Steve Glazer (925) 942-6082

Assembly Member Catharine Baker (925) 328-1515

Governor Jerry Brown (916) 445-2841

Heidi Doggett
Lafayette

Continued commentary on Moraga police blotter

I can hardly believe that the 'humorous' police blotter went on for as long as it did. I never found it humorous in any way, but I didn't bother to express my opinion to the paper so I guess I deserved to suffer through it. I can't tell you how happy our household was to see an end to it, but now that people are trying to bring it back I thought I'd better speak up.

Having gone through a similar trauma, I'm in complete agreement with Ms. Billings' views on the 'humorous' police blotter. There is nothing at all humorous about being the victim of a crime and I can tell you from personal experience that recovery is slow if it happens at all. To have someone treat your situation like it's a big joke is insulting and rude.

If the person providing the humor still works at the paper, perhaps they can find some other way of expressing their creativity ... a comic strip?

Grace Bennett
Moraga

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

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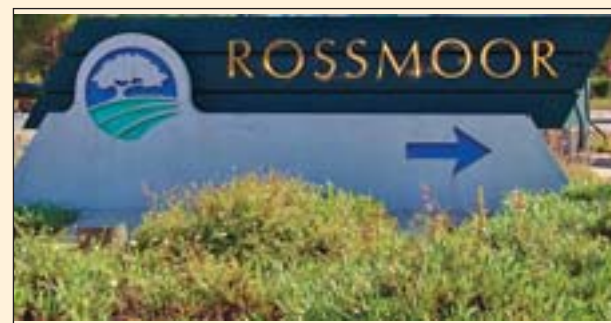
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Tinkergarten underscores outdoor exploration, one muddy step at a time

By Diane Claytor



Tinkergarten leader Eliza Becker (right) and her class watch a gopher come in and out of his hole. Photos provided

What toddler doesn't love making mud pies, splashing through puddles or crawling around searching for bugs or digging for worms? That's what an East Coast couple thought in 2010 when they founded Tinkergarten, a program of classes exploring the outdoors through activities that inspire, excite and educate kids from 18 months through 8 years. And that's also what Moraga mom Eliza Becker thought when she was looking for a high-quality activity for her young sons.

When Meghan Fitzgerald, an educator, and her husband, Brian, a developer of tech products, had their first child, they were looking for hands-on activities where parents and kids could spend quality time together, having fun and learning. They wanted play-based activities where kids could use their creativity, independence and problem-solving skills in an organic way. "Our goal was to take it back to the way it was when we grew up – get our children playing outside," Brian Fitzgerald stated in a recent interview.

Most children today are growing up in a world filled with a myriad of scheduled activities and probably way too much computer and TV screen time. The focus of Tinkergarten is to bring memorable, tactile and outdoor educational opportunities to both children and parents, Brian Fitzgerald said. "Our premise is that nature and outdoors are the ideal classroom...and the idea is to encourage kids to have fun, be social and develop various skills through activities from making mud pies to creating art using items found outside, like leaves and berries."

When Becker, mother of two young boys, saw an ad for a local Tinkergarten class, it "spoke to my heart," she said and she immediately enrolled her 2-year-old son. Unfortunately, the class was canceled the night before it was to begin. Disappointed, Becker, who felt the Tinkergarten premise "was so in tune with my values" kept looking to see if the class would be rescheduled. It wasn't. So instead, the former primary school teacher decided to become a leader herself. "The Tinkergarten program brings back that sense of childhood that tends to be easily lost nowadays," Becker explained. "I love the fact

that it focuses on nature and outside exploration and discovery."

Training was done online and included videos, articles and calls with both the founders and mentor leaders. In the fall of 2016, Becker began leading a Tinkergarten class for kids from 18 months to 5 years, meeting at Moraga's Rancho Laguna Park for 95 minutes every Tuesday morning.

The curriculum is well researched and well developed with an emphasis on child development, Becker said, but "there's always room and opportunity for me to add my own style and flavor." The kids are never told exactly what to do or how to do it. As the Fitzgeralds described it, "the leaders lead, not teach. This makes the classes truly about the kids and their own learning process." Becker enjoyed leading her group so much that she continued with both a winter and spring session.

"We give kids the opportunity to really welcome exploration," noted Becker, who added that there are many life skills that can be developed through this type of play, including communication, creativity and imagination, problem solving, teamwork and persistence and grit.

Describing one recent Tuesday morning, Becker explained the class was focusing on friends found in nature and getting the kids to understand what a habitat is and how different creatures live in different

habitats. The kids (called explorers) were sent on a scavenger hunt searching for live creatures and, with the help of their parents or caregivers (referred to as guides), they found all different types of bugs. "We celebrated each discovery," Becker said, "and we also talked about how these creatures have just as much right to live as we do so we're going to find them but we're also going to protect them."

Even with all the rain experienced this past year, Becker made every effort to continue unless there was a "torrential downpour," she explained. "The days it was sprinkling tended to be the most fun." Becker built shelters in the park with tarps so they had a dry space to retreat to when needed. But, she said, the kids wore rain boots, rain jackets and "we went out there and got wet, got dirty, got muddy. We found a lot of worms in the rain and the sensory experience the kids get from this type of play is tremendous."

"In today's world, there's often so much hesitation in allowing that type of free play," she said, "and we're trying to reverse that. There's a time and place to be clean and a time and place to get muddy. Tinkergarten is the time to get dirty."

Becker will again be leading a fall Tinkergarten program at Rancho Laguna Park starting Sept. 7. To sign up or learn more, visit www.tinkergarten.com.



A Tinkergarten student makes an animal shelter – for his stuffed animals.

Moraga's commercial approval process

... continued from page A4

CPDs are allowed only within existing multi-tenant commercial centers, and can allow for a reasonable degree of infill development. Major changes would still require applicants to follow the standard Moraga process.

An ad-hoc committee composed of council members Kymberleigh Korpus and David Trotter started the conversation on Aug. 9 about the general parameters for the CPD, including outlining

the minimum size, and minimum number of tenants required. The planning commission and design review board will also weigh in on the discussion before the town council takes the final vote defining the CPD.

The committee leaned toward allowing only multi-tenant units to be able to become a CPD, while allowing single occupant buildings to join in an already approved district. The committee agreed that two

acres would be a good minimum size for a CPD.

During the first meeting, neither Jay Kerner nor a representative of the Bruzzone family was present. The objective is still to get the process of defining the Moraga CPD by the end of October. At that point commercial property owners can decide if this zoning would be beneficial for their centers.

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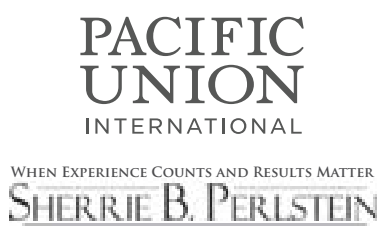
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County Board of Supervisors approves Saranap Village project

By John T. Miller

Project Timeline

5 YEARS

Site Plans A, B/B1, C

June 2012 – Feb 2013	Land Assembly	
Sept 2013	Application Submission	1.5 YEARS
Oct 2013	County Incompleteness Letter	
Sept 2014	DEIR Published	
Feb 2015	Start Re-Design for Mitigated Plan Alternative (MPA)	2.5 YEARS
July 2015	Submit MPA Design	
May 2016	R-DEIR Published	
June 2016	ZA Hearing on R-DEIR	7 MOS
Feb 2017	Submit 2017 Re-Design	
June 2017	Final EIR Published	
June 28, 2017	Planning Commission Hearing	
July/Aug 2017	Board of Supervisors Hearing	

Site C: Residential Condos
24 For-Sale Condo Homes

Site A: Mixed-Use
Apartments & Retail
122 Units
8,700+/- SF Commercial

Site B/B1: Mixed-Use Condos & Retail
52 For-Sale Condo Homes
12,875+/- SF Commercial



Images provided

With a final approval from the County Board of Supervisors, Hall Equity Group will be able to begin construction on the proposed Saranap Village project. The unanimous 5-0 vote Aug. 15 was met by enthusiastic applause from the (mostly) supportive audience.

After presentations from County Senior Planner Sean Tulley and HEG Spokesperson Deb Karbo, the board took public input from over 35 speakers, with an overwhelming majority speaking in favor of the project.

Many residents who live close to the new Saranap Village locale spoke in favor of the proposal. They were joined by a number of organizations, including the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, the Contra Costa Association of Realtors, the Saranap Homeowners Association, Plumbers Local 159, the Sheet Metal Workers Union and the Building Industry Association of the Bay Area.

The spokesperson for the Chamber of Commerce called the current Saranap business district “run down and in need of help,” while a local realtor said that one of her clients likened the area to a ghetto.

The dissenting opinions centered mostly on the 71-foot height of the proposal and the effect that such a large development would have on future proposals in the Saranap area.

Tully was asked to respond to the question of height and said that the 71-foot figure was from the lowest point of the lot to the highest point of the development. The highest point in any of the

three buildings is 57-feet. Tully also explained that in mitigating the height issue, HEG also moved the higher parts of the structures further from the roadway.

Before the vote was taken, Supervisor John Giola of Richmond praised the proposed village, noting that it “served as a blueprint for the kinds of projects needed in the county.”

Supervisor Candace Andersen expressed appreciation to the Saranap residents in the planning process. “This will create a sense of place for Saranap, rather than detracting from it,” she said, calling it “a great step forward in creating housing for our area.”

In addition, Andersen noted that HEG will provide \$50,000 toward a community planning process for the downtown Saranap area to direct future developments. Money will also be diverted from other sources to help create the plan.

Mark Hall, president and CEO of HEG said, “We are pleased with the outcome of the hearing. After working with the Saranap area community for so many years, the Board of Supervisors approved a project that is critical to revitalizing the Boulevard Way business corridor, providing the Saranap community its own place to gather for dining and shopping and providing much needed housing for Contra Costa County.”

A spokesperson for HEG said that with the recent approval, there is still much work to be done before naming a start date for the project.



Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.



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Opiate antidote now in the hands of Lafayette police

... continued from page A1

"When someone needs Narcan, they need it badly," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy, who has worked with the drug for almost 30 years. "I'd advise that the police take universal precautions. Use gloves and eye-wear, as victims could vomit upon resuscitation." The police field overdose kit will contain a pair of exam gloves and a face shield along with the nasal spray.

Terence Carey, assistant chief of emergency medical services for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, likened the police carrying a Narcan kit to their car-

rying an automated external defibrillator. "It's a good thing," Carey said. "In addition to officers having that tool, we'll be responding as well with trained advanced-life-support personnel."

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel confirmed that his officers will receive naloxone training in the coming months. Moraga has no immediate plans to begin the training, according to Town Manager Bob Priebe, though he said his police department would be interested in the program. "I don't see a downside, as long as there are precautions and proper training," he

said.

Gilmore's wife, Barbara, is in charge of membership services for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. In memory of the Gilmores' son, the chamber agreed to fund the initial purchase of five field overdose kits for the police department.

"Approving this program is not supporting or condoning the abuse of illicit drugs," Christensen wrote in a letter to the council. "This program simply acknowledges that a problem exists and provides another opportunity to save lives through rapid assessment and reversal of the effects of opioid-related drugs."

Orchard Road, short-term rentals and marijuana

... continued from page A6

The ordinance adds a section to the municipal code that creates an annual short-term registration system. Property owners will be required to fill out and sign a registration form including contact information and other key information about the rental. Short-term rentals will not be eligible for Temporary Event Permits. The maximum occupancy is let at two people per bedroom plus three additional people and only one short-term rental per property is allowed at any given time. Property owner must affirm that short-term rentals comply with

all applicable building, fire, health and zoning codes and operators of short-term rentals must register for and pay TOT.

Twelve months after passage of the ordinance, staff must prepare a report for the city council regarding implementation. Once there are 100 short-term rentals in Orinda, the planning commission will hold a public hearing to consider the effectiveness of the ordinance.

The council also approved an ordinance regulating marijuana cultivation in the city, since marijuana use and cultivation was ap-

proved by California voters in the last general election as Proposition 64, which gave localities limited powers to regulate the drug. The city council stuck with its intention to prohibit outdoor grows of any marijuana and to also prohibit any commercial marijuana-related activities within the city. However Council Member Inga Miller and Mayor Eve Phillips voted against the ordinance because they did not support the prohibition on outdoor grows. The two ordinances will be formally adopted on a future consent calendar.

Food trucks and Orinda restaurants

... continued from page A6

Salomon acknowledged that parking is a problem in Orinda but pointed out that it is a good problem to have. Some places have plenty of parking but nobody shows up. Some solutions were identified in the Urban Land Institute report on

downtown development. In the short term, Salomon said, the city can work on those if that is what the community and the council want to have happen. One suggestion is to use Bryant Way for additional parking.

The weekly Street Feast food truck event will continue on Thursdays, from 5 to 9 p.m. through Oct. 19 in front of the Orinda Community Center.

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Eclipse Elates Elementary Earthlings

By B.B. Kaye



Donald Rheem Elementary School Science Aide Karen Healy (left) explains the total eclipse of the sun to a fifth-grade class while teacher Tanja Gubser (right) looks on. Gubser told her class that she observed the 1979 total solar eclipse when she was an elementary school student. Photos Andy Schreck

Monday morning Aug. 21 in Lamorinda was characterized by a bustling in the heavens and on Earth. This first day of school brought the yearly return of early morning student traffic, wearing summer tans and gains in height and confidence, streaming in by bus, on foot, and car. And while there may have been some reluctance at exchanging lazy summer mornings for a disciplined schedule of having-to-be-there-on-time mixed with the delight of seeing old school buddies and favorite teachers again, this first day began with an exciting bonus: a chance to observe the wondrous return of a total solar eclipse.

Although the precise path (directly underneath the transiting bodies) was far north of Lamorinda, beginning in Oregon and ending in South Carolina, making totality visible in only 14 states, angles of the eclipse were seen all over North America, South America, Africa, and parts of Europe.

Schools across Lamorinda readied eclipse activities for the day. At Camino Pablo Elementary School, pinhole cameras made from shoeboxes were prepared to view the event while protecting eyes against the blinding power of the sun. Volunteer William Robinson set up a spotting scope to safely project the eclipse onto a white-board. "We set up the scope here on Saturday at this time, to test positioning," he said. Teachers trained children on how to view the eclipse safely, and even added elastic headbands to ISO (International Organization of Standards) approved glasses

beforehand in an abundance of caution, lest any child's glasses slip down while gazing at the powerful orb.

In the big multi-purpose room, Camino Pablo Principal Chris Reddam set up a big screen for students to enjoy coverage of the event, live-streamed from NASA. Fourth-grade teacher Clare Fallon took students to the school garden. "We're going to listen for the sounds of birds and insects, and try to compare them to any differences in the natural background noises they make when the eclipse occurs. Does their behavior change? Later, we'll also study how eclipses affected ancient cultures."

Rheem Elementary School purchased 200 ISO approved eclipse glasses and structured lessons to ensure that maximum supervision and guidance corresponded with the learning experience, said Principal Brian Sullivan. In Tanja Gubser's fifth grade classroom, Science Aide Karen Healy spoke to students about the specifics of the historic event as they watched the total eclipse happening across the country on a big screen.

In the dawns of mankind, eclipses were watched with fear and superstition, but centuries of observation and enquiry grew into the rational system for understanding that we now possess: science. An eclipse helped to prove Einstein's theory of relativity, and eclipses are still used to forward scientific understanding. Today, equipped with modern tools of observation, children and adults alike safely enjoy the thrill and awe of witnessing these

massive celestial dances.

Heavy cloud cover obscured Monday's event. Classes cycled from activities to watchfulness on the blacktop, hoping that skies would open for a clear sight of what everyone knew was occurring beyond the clouds. Most had gone back to their rooms at Camino Pablo when suddenly, to the marvel of a lucky small group of about 10 children, the clouds parted, revealing the eclipse in full view. "I can see it! I can see it!" students called out excitedly. Teachers sprinted to call classes out, but the clouds slid like stage curtains into place, concealing the great act again.

The last total eclipse visible in North America was 18 years ago, on Feb. 26, 1979. Six years from now, there will be an annular eclipse in which the edge of the sun remains visible as a bright ring around the moon on Oct. 14, 2023, and the next total eclipse visible in North America will happen in seven short years, on April 8, 2024. Mark your calendars!



Although an overcast sky obscured the viewing of the Aug. 21 solar eclipse in Moraga, students at Rheem and Camino Pablo elementary schools were able to catch a glimpse of the event through the clouds using special ISO glasses.

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Miramonte writer hopes bystanders step in to stop sexual assault

By Jennifer Wake



Miramonte alumna Kate Nerone

Photo provided

When Kate Nerone wrote an article for the Miramonte Mirador about what consent means and what constitutes sexual assault, she never thought it would receive the reaction it did. Classmates began to reach out to Nerone, wanting to share their stories. Soon after, she published an opinion piece in the Mirador, describing several alleged assaults of those who approached her – and she became a champion of something called bystander intervention.

“Once I started talking to people, some of the statistics, you know, came alive,” Nerone said. “I had a discussion with one of my close guy friends who said the article shattered his opinion of Lamorinda; he finally got a glimpse of what was happening [here].”

“I was surprised at the reaction [to the article],” added Nerone, who said she received a hug from Miramonte Principal Julie Parks when she saw Parks on campus after publishing the piece. “She was really supportive. I was expecting a lot of hate and backlash [from students], but a lot of feedback was really supportive, thanking me and saying ‘finally.’”

Approximately 1.8 million adolescents in the United States have been the victims of sexual assault, according to the “National Survey of Adolescents,” conducted in 1998 by the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center in South Carolina. The U.S. Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website reports that teens 16 to 19 years of age were three and a half times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault, and approximately one in five female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Nerone believes bystander intervention can make a difference. “I’ve been in situations like that, in social settings where you know something ‘isn’t right.’ I think it’s important to learn how to read the signals,”

she says. “This is not just a guys versus girls issue. Everyone could use more education.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified three programs that have been shown to be effective in preventing sexual violence perpetration: Safe Dates, which focuses on changing adolescent dating gender-role norms and improve peer helping and conflict-resolution skills; Shifting Boundaries, which focuses on increasing knowledge and awareness of sexual abuse and harassment and promotes nonviolent behaviors and intentions in bystanders; and RealConsent, which is a bystander-based model that focuses on increasing pro-social intervening behaviors, including knowledge and skills for safely intervening. RealConsent consists of “six 30-minute web-based, interactive modules that include didactic activities and episodes of a serial drama to model sexual communication, consent, and positive bystander behaviors,” according to the CDC. Additional programs including Green Dot, a bystander-based prevention program, are identified as “promising.”

A recent four-year study at Kentucky high schools involved Green Dot-trained educators who conducted schoolwide presentations and recruited student popular opinion leaders to receive bystander intervention training. Nearly 90,000 students completed surveys, which showed that between 2014 to 2016, Green Dot implementation at those high schools significantly decreased not only sexual violence perpetration but also other forms of interpersonal violence perpetration and victimization.

While Nerone thinks it’s good to bring students together to open a discussion about sexual harassment and assault, she believes getting bystanders involved and able to speak up when they see something they know is wrong, or to simply ask more questions, will have a stronger impact.

“People don’t want to meddle in sex or hooking up in general, but I think I’d rather be uncomfortable than think something would happen,” Nerone said. “I want this to permeate social gatherings so people start talking about it and do something.”

The Acalanes Union High School District has a strong policy against sexual harassment and assault, with disciplinary action including possible expulsion, but it requires that victims report the alleged assault. According to the DOJ, only 30 percent of sexual assaults are reported.

As the new school year begins and Nerone heads off to college, she hopes that all Lamorinda students will take more responsibility and look out for each other.

“One of my sister’s slogans is ‘Not everyone will be a victim, but everyone will be a bystander.’”

To learn more about ways to combat sexual assault, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/prevention.html>.

To read Nerone’s Mirador article, visit <https://mhsmirador.com/opinion/2017/06/05/it-happens-here-sexual-assault/>.

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Grazing goats sighted on Moraga hillside

These grass-munching goats were spotted grazing on the hillside near the Rheem Valley Shopping Center Aug. 12, ridding the area of dry brush, which is a potential fire hazard.



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Correction:

The Lamorinda Weekly’s Aug. 9 story “Snoopy hosts hi-octane hockey seniors” stated that Mark Sertich, member of Charles “Sparky” Schulz’s original team the Santa Rosa Diamond Icers, was 92 years old. He is 96.

Former NBA player and Orinda resident Adonal Foyle pursuing his passions

By Kara Navolio



Adonal Foyle Photo provided

What's a professional basketball player to do after retiring from the game he loves? If you ask Orinda resident and former Golden State Warrior Adonal Foyle, the answer is just about everything. He appears to have accomplished just as much off the court since his retirement seven years ago as he did in his 13 year career with the Warriors and the Orlando Magic.

Foyle's new book "When the Ball is Laid to Rest" is a collection of poetry he penned over the past seven years to mark significant events in his life such as his retirement from basketball, the death of loved ones, or moments of clarity. "Poetry has always been intensely personal," explains Foyle. The book, published in July, is divided into chapters of poems dedicated to Caribbean life (his childhood home on the island of Canouan in the Grenadines), basketball, politics, and love. One poem, titled "Love Song to a Game" is especially poignant. Another, "Warrior of the Bay," pays homage to his good friend, the late Nate Thurmond.

Lamorinda residents may enjoy "Breakfast at Chow," a poem he wrote about one of his favorite hang-outs, Chow in Lafayette, where he often has breakfast on Friday mornings.

This is Foyle's fifth book. He has also published two children's books and two books intended to help other former athletes in their post-retirement: "Winning the Money Game" (Harper Col-

lins 2015) and "The Athlete CEO" (2017). "The Athlete CEO" helps athletes or others launching a second career. In this book he brings together his knowledge of sports psychology and business to show others how to become the CEO of their brand and discover their new mission. Foyle has a master's degree in sports psychology from John F. Kennedy University and is currently working on his MBA. His master's thesis in sports psychology was on life changes experienced by former NBA players upon retirement.

Foyle came to the U.S. at the age of 15 for better educational opportunities and a possibility to pursue his basketball dreams. He eventually played for Colgate University, and the 6-foot 10-inch standout was drafted eighth overall in 1997 by the Golden State Warriors. He played for the team for 10 years, his final year being the "We Believe" year. He finished his NBA career with the Orlando Magic, playing there for three years. He returned to the Bay Area soon after. "I fell in love with the Bay Area," he states. "There is such diversity. Each city has its own culture and climate and has something different to offer. It represents the best of what we can be."

In addition to writing five books and earning two master's degrees, he founded and runs two nonprofits engaged with young people. The Kerosene Lamp Foundation empowers at-risk youth through athletics, academics, camps and mentorships. Democracy Matters encourages young people to get involved in the political process.

Foyle can also be seen on ABC as an analyst following some Warriors games and co-hosts the radio program "The Warriors Hour" on 95.7 The Game on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. He is active with the Warriors community development.

Of all that Foyle has accomplished, he gets the most joy from helping others find their purpose. Through his two foundations he has seen young people fight through

obstacles and find their passion. He has been able to bring two of his siblings to the U.S. to pursue their educations and find their paths as well. "When you can impact someone's life and help them find their truth - that's my passion."

For more information or to buy his books, visit: www.adonalfoyle.com.

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Lamorinda Idol 2017

finals this Sunday

Competition showcases the vocal and performance talents of local youth

Submitted by Christy Mack



Kindergarten through 12th-grade children living or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga will have the opportunity to become the next Lamorinda Idols at the 12th annual Lamorinda Idol singing competition, produced by the Lamorinda Arts Council, from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27 at the Orinda Theatre.

Lamorinda Idol finalists in soloist and group categories will compete at this free event throughout the day, culminating in the Lamorinda Idol 2017 winners being crowned in the elementary, middle and high school categories at 7 p.m.

"Lamorinda Idol is magical to me," shared Lamorinda Idol founder, Steven Hardwood. "I love seeing young people who are passionate about singing receive the unwavering support of their parents as well as our Idol judges, volunteers, sponsors, and audience mem-

bers as they strive to nurture their artistic talents."

Audience members are an important part of the voting and will have the chance to cast votes Aug. 27 for their favorite Lamorinda finalists. Audience votes, combined with feedback from a local panel of musically experienced judges, will determine who will be crowned 2017 Lamorinda Idols.

"I continue to be amazed at the depth of singing talent in Lamorinda," explained Pam Whitman, a longtime Lamorinda Idol judge for LAC. "I admire the willingness of young children and teens to take the stage and give performing their all in public forums. I can't wait to see and hear the Aug. 27 Lamorinda Idol finalist performances."

To learn more about LAC's Lamorinda Idol 2017 and for a complete schedule of the day's events and activities, go to www.lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol.



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Orinda/Moraga Girl Scout Camporee a screaming success

Submitted by Yuka Akera

Ambassador Girl Scout Troop 30072 from Campolindo High School in Moraga planned an amazing event last May filled not only with songs, but also hikes, knots, necklaces, friendship bracelets, games, sit-upons, skits and s'mores around the campfire at Twin Canyons Girl Scout camp in Lafayette, where 150 Girl Scouts gathered for the 2017 Camporee. The event included girls from kindergarten through 12th grade. Senior Troop 31361 from Moraga and Cadette Troop 31339 from Orinda helped execute the event.

Co-leader of Troop 30072, Lori Sherman, said, "It was heartwarming to see girls of all ages come together – learning and playing. The goal of our event was to inspire and teach younger girls encouraging them to continue through Girl Scouts even when other activities yearn to consume

more of their time. We were very proud of our event. I'm humbled by my amazing nine girls who planned the Camporee

which is their legacy to our community as they leave and head off to the next chapter of their lives – college!"



2017 Girl Scout Camporee

Photo provided

Peter Pan Foundation donates \$15K to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez



Front row, from left: Matthew Shieh, Kisakye Naiga, PPF Founder and Director Leslie Noel, Sadie Poole, Dr. Joe Torkildson, Michelle Hannigan, Lisa Rodriguez; back row: Svend Ryge, Devon Ashburn, Juliette Benazra, Evan Mirabella, Bailey Barnard, Nadya Jatoft, Lizzy Obrand, Veronica Van Avermaete, Jordan Ben-Shmuel, Hannah Hoffman, Megan Burgess, Garrett Hannigan, Josh Christian, Maddie Cortright, Maggie Kennedy, Izzy Annunciation, Zoe Papadopoulos

Photo David VanAvermaete

The Lafayette-based Peter Pan Foundation, an inspiring nonprofit helping others through music and theater, donated \$15,000 Aug. 14 to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland during a performance at the hospital. The donation will help fund a vibrant waiting room remodel, Child Life Services programs, the Artfelt Memories bereavement support group, stress relief coloring book pages, and ongoing pediatric HIV/AIDS psychosocial support.

"Helping young hearts to fly is so much more than just our slogan at the Peter Pan Foundation. It represents our mission to provide the young – and the young at heart – an enthusiastic environment in which participants are inspired to discover and develop their creative talents, while also teaching

them important lessons about their responsibility to take care of themselves and others," said Leslie Noel, founder and director of the Peter Pan Foundation. "This donation was made possible by the love, laughter, talent, and hard work of our performers, and we couldn't be more pleased to be helping our friends at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital."

The Peter Pan Foundation exists to inspire children of all ages to reach their full potential by encouraging confidence, character, and creativity through music and theater, while instilling the value and benefits of community outreach. For more information about the foundation, visit www.peterpan-foundation.org.

Children's Health Guild gala a huge success

Submitted by Libby Dafferner



Photo provided

The Children's Health Guild, a nonprofit comprised of approximately 50 talented and passionate women almost exclusively from Lamorinda, and dedicated to improving the quality of and access to pediatric medical care in the East Bay raised over \$410,000 for its beneficiaries, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and George Mark Children's House at its recent June gala, "A Guilded Evening of Giving," at the Diablo Valley Country Club. Event Chairs, Kristina Barnes and Michelle Berolzheimer (pictured), did an outstanding job creating a beautiful, memorable and successful event. The money raised will help the guild's beneficiary organizations provide the full circle of medical care for children and their families, including emergency and ongoing treatment as well as transitional, respite and palliative care.

Cookie and lemonade profits go to two good causes

Submitted by Suzanne Jones



Photo provided

Seventh-grade Moragans Alessandro Paolieri (left) and Dean Elia (right), and fifth-grader MarcAnthony Paolieri (center), held their third biennial lemonade-and-cookie fundraiser Aug. 17 on Bollinger Canyon Road. This time they chose to work on the problem of homelessness, and are supporting Dreamcatcher Youth Services, one of very few East Bay homeless shelters that focus specifically on helping homeless adolescents, and the East Bay SPCA, which finds homes and provides veterinary care to thousands of homeless animals each year. Once again, their homemade lemonade and cookies were a success, raising \$132 to be divided between the two charities.

For information about these organizations, visit www.alamedafs.org/dreamcatcher or www.eastbayspca.org.

Moraga Rotary kicks off a community endeavor to help orphans in Sierra Leone

By Kara Navolio



Dianne Wilson of Moraga Rotary receives a \$121,000 check from Dave Kemnitz of Clunkers4Charity to jumpstart the club's fundraising to build an orphanage in Sierra Leone.

Photo Kara Navolio

During Sierra Leone's civil war, when he was 15 years old, rebels attacked Bambay Sawaneh's small West African village and demanded money and information; they rounded up all the young men and cut off their hands if they refused or remained silent. Sawaneh was the only young man to survive that day, losing both hands to rebels, but instead of turning to anger and revenge, he made it his life's work to help others; he now cares for 24 children orphaned by the 2014 Ebola crisis.

Approximately 50 people filled a meeting room at Saint Mary's College Aug. 8 to hear the story about this man and to learn about the Moraga Rotary Club's goal to build an orphanage in Sierra Leone for the many children orphaned during the Ebola crisis.

The Moraga Rotary has brought together many organizations, all working to help each other make building this orphanage a reality.

FC Seattle Sierra Leone, a nonprofit whose original mission was to provide soccer balls to the children of Sierra Leone, increased its presence and the scope of its mission after the Ebola crisis and has partnered with Sawaneh to help him care for the most vulnerable of the orphans, the ones without any distant relatives to take them in. FC Seattle Sierra Leone director Becky Baker presented a slide show of the orphans and told Sawaneh's story at the Aug. 8 meeting.

Dave Kemnitz with Clunkers4Charity who is also a member of the Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary Club presented a \$121,000 check at the event. An anonymous donor gave the organization a used motor home that Kemnitz reconditioned and sold with all the proceeds going toward the Moraga club's orphanage project.

Also in attendance was Michael Mendonça, a member of the Pleasant Hill Rotary Club and co-founder of the Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation. The nonprofit's mission is providing prosthetic hands to people all over the world, mostly in developing countries without access to quality healthcare. Mendonça is the previous co-owner of a plastic injection molding company who was commissioned by Ernie Meadows to help make the grips on the fingers of the plastic hands he invented. Meadows, an engineer, was inspired to make the hands after losing his daughter in a car accident. Mendonça had the technology for the grips and together with Meadows the first prosthesis was created by the partnership.

Mendonça eventually took over production and made improvements to the design. He now runs the 501c3 and thus far has provided over 31,000 hands to people in 79 countries completely free of charge. His biggest challenge is finding the individuals in need of the hands and dispensing outlets in those countries. The hands are so easy to use that a person who has been an amputee for years can learn to write again in 15 minutes.

To top off the evening meeting, Mendonça presented a set of prosthetic hands to Baker to give to Sawaneh on her next trip to Sierra Leone.

The club's fundraising efforts for the new orphanage and to help FC Seattle Sierra Leone send additional children from surrounding villages to school are ongoing. "Our goal is \$275,000 and they plan to break ground this time next year," said Moraga Rotary member Dianne Wilson.

To learn more, visit www.LN-4.org, www.fcseattlesierraleone.com, www.clunkers4charity.org, or www.moragarotary.com.

Troop 234 honors four new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Julie Carlson



From left: Matthew LoPresti, Nathan Carlson, Bryce Henderson and Andrew Holloway

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 234 of Moraga on June 3 honored four Scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a national Eagle Court of Honor held at St. Monica Catholic Church.

Nathan Carlson, Bryce Henderson, Andrew Holloway, and Matthew LoPresti, completed projects that benefitted a number of schools in Moraga.

Carlson replaced grass with drought-resistant plants and other low-water land-

scaping at Los Perales Elementary School; Henderson painted colorful and developmentally appropriate shapes and games on the blacktop at Camino Pablo Elementary School; Holloway constructed a new long jump course in the volleyball court at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School; and LoPresti constructed two string bass racks for the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School music department.

On competition

By Alexandra Reinecke

The research I did at Columbia this summer was about Hinduism. There was a lot of talk about ego, and after four years spent presenting not Alexandra, the person, but Alexandra, the product, it hit a little too close to home. In J. D. Salinger's "Franny and Zooey," the protagonist comments that she's not afraid of not competing. She's afraid she will compete.

I was raised to believe in excellence. My mother, even as a lawyer out of practice, argues mostly with logic, and after truth. My father studied his way out of the kind of poverty that, the more I consider it, appears to me like a bonfire boyhood, one of those burning tepees not only liable, but engineered to fall in on itself.

But somewhere between now and learning from there, somewhere between wanting excellence and crying here, tucked beneath a heap of blankets and heaving like a patient on a perfectly beautiful night, I lost sight of what excellence meant, or what it was supposed to mean. I clung to the trophy. I kept my eyes on the prize. I ignored the strain the perpetual striving, like a sustained jog might wreak on the lungs, wreaked on my mind.

I don't know when doing my best turned into feeling entitled to a 4.0. I don't know when wanting an education turned into three black sweatshirts with the name of a college arched obnoxiously across the chest. All these things happened gradually, I guess. Fell away from me. Tennis lessons. Television. The curiosity which made me a child fascinated by sushi rice, by the mechanics of hinges in doors.

But I've become less these few years, inside, growing my resume and earning my report cards for the fridge. I've deteriorated from the inside. Become hollow.

Today my little cousin showed me his soccer participation trophy and I think I'm a little like that. That slim, gold little man, posed mid-kick. Gilded but empty. Admired

from afar, and treated fragilely by those who know well enough that granite pedestal, imprinted words, golden shell do not a hero make.

I miss looking up to my mother, instead of wanting her to look up to me. I miss my father, who is more of a person sitting in his plaid pajamas, meditating on the floor of his basement office than I am commanding a room with my wit and a microphone.

I miss myself before I began competing. I miss being who I was before I became terrified by the wrong thing. I'm tired, not just of the Hinduism books, or the endnotes, but of the chase.

I wanted to come home, not just to California, but to myself. I want to warn my little cousin against the dangers of exhaustion, against the dangers of setting his soccer trophy on the shelf, where it can become conceited, where it won't be content with excellence, but live in constant peril of a fall from great height.



Alexandra Reinecke is from Westchester, New York. She currently resides in Lafayette, where she is junior at Campolindo High School. She writes every morning at 5 o'clock opposite a print of "View of the World from 9th Avenue" and consumes copious amounts of coffee. Her likes include maple-flavored anything and snow. Her favorite animal is a tiger.

New concert, new season for the Pacific Chamber Orchestra

By Sophie Braccini



Pianist Natsuki Fukasawa Photo provided

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra will open its concert season in Lafayette Sept. 16 with its first concert, "Walk in Poetry," with works by Schubert, Beethoven and Mozart. Famed Bay Area pianist Natsuki Fukasawa will perform Beethoven's Concerto No. 4 with the chamber's musicians.

Maestro Lawrence Kohl, who leads the musicians as well as the nonprofit that organizes the concerts, constructs his programs with pleasure, but also with education in mind. He explains that this concert explores the more lyric sides of Mozart and Beethoven that inspired Schubert.

Kohl describes Schubert as a great admirer of the two musicians that preceded him, and found in their more lyric work the possibility to create and develop his own musical language. For Kohl, Schubert is the link between Beethoven and Brahms, and should he had lived longer – he died at 31 – he might have taken Brahms' place in the development of Romantic music.

The concert will start with Mozart's aperture of the opera Die Entführung aus dem Serail (The Abduction from the Seraglio), followed by Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, and finishing with Schubert's Symphony No. 1.

The Abduction tells an adventurous and exotic story about two men trying to rescue their beloveds from a Turkish harem. It was Mozart's first big success in Vienna, at age 25. The overture opens quietly amid a bustling undercurrent that is then interrupted by brash passages, which are quite similar to the music played by the janissaries (the Sultan's

personal guard) later in the opera. It includes instruments such as piccolo, triangle, big drum and cymbals.

Beethoven fourth concerto has been called the most gently spoken and poetic of all his concertos. It opens with the piano solo, something that was an absolute first when Beethoven wrote it in 1805. Kohl needed a remarkable pianist to render the touching voice of this piano concerto. He asked Fukasawa to join the orchestra for this concert; it will be her first time with these musicians.

Fukasawa lives in the Bay Area, but travels the world for performances. Though, Her website lists engagements such as an Italian tour, concerts in Japan, Hong Kong, Switzerland and many U.S. cities. Fukasawa studied in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright Scholarship recipient, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from New York's Juilliard School and a doctorate from the University of Maryland. She is part of the prestigious International Steinway Artists roster and is currently on faculty at American River College, and has taught at California State University, Sacramento, Saint Mary's College of California, and the University of the Pacific.

The program will end with Schubert's first symphony, a piece he composed when he was only 16 years old. Kohl says that this symphony, composed at such a tender age, shows the influences of his predecessors, but also unveils Schubert's strong unique musical persona. Kohl adds that the piece is well suited for a chamber orchestra since it was composed for two clarinets, one flute, two oboes, two horns, two trumpets, two bassoons, kettledrums and strings.

This concert will be followed in February by "Golden Strings," involving a string arrangement of Strauss' Symphony No. 2, and Elgar's Serenade for Strings. Then in April the orchestra will offer "American Radio Hour," an all-American program including compositions by Aaron Copland and George Gershwin, featuring jazz violinist Mads Tolling.

The opening concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette. To purchase tickets, visit www.pacificchamber-orchestra.org.

'Black Odyssey' at CalShakes a formidable adventure

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Aldo Billingslea (Great Grand Paw Sidin), J. Alphonse Nicholson (Ulysses Lincoln), Safiya Fredericks (Benevolence Nausicca Sabine), Dawn S. Troupe (Alsendra Sabine) and Lamont Thompson (Great Grand Daddy Deus) in Marcus Gardley's "Black Odyssey," directed by Eric Ting at California Shakespeare Theater. Photo Kevin Berne

CalShakes artistic director Eric Ting took a risk for the third play of the season in the beautiful theater in the hills, the Bruns Amphitheater: producing a text that had been performed only once before, "Black Odyssey," by contemporary playwright Marcus Gardley.

The risk was well worth it. "Black Odyssey" is powerful and adventurous, like the Greek myth it is named after. Homer's "Odyssey" captured the spirit of the ancient Greeks; "Black Odyssey" synthesizes much of the essence of the contemporary black experience in America, and of veterans hurt by the tragedy of war. "Black Odyssey" will likely become a classic, and Ting's production will be a template to follow.

At a preview of the play, two days before opening night, everything was in place.

Ulysses Lincoln (J. Alphonse Nicholson) is a lost soldier from the war in Afghanistan trying to find his way home. He is a tortured man who killed another human being during the war and is haunted by that memory. He has a wife waiting for him at home and a baby, but can he go home with his hands covered in blood? He is also a man without a past, an orphan who knows nothing of his an-

cestors, of his place in history and he is also a pawn in the gods' rivalries.

Gardley's text brings spectators along Ulysses's long journey home. Nicholson, Omozé Idehenre as his wife Nella, and Lamont Thompson, Aldo Billingslea and Margo Hall as the gods, were all equally excellent.

While the play is long, there is no down time. Every encounter adds to the picture of an ordinary black man who discovers himself, his past and what his people have been through along the way. The music, and the songs accompanying him are beautiful, including some original vocal compositions by Linda Tillery and Molly Holm.

The epic and sometime violent nature of the play is a match for the vast topic Gardley sought to embrace. Ting did not downplay the text and was not afraid to display the cruelty of the world that entraps Ulysses.

"Black Odyssey" runs through Sept. 3 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. There are only 12 performances left to see this epic play, and tickets are selling fast (Sunday's matinee is sold out). More information, visit www.calshakes.org.

In Memory

Ron Olowin, Ph.D.



Longtime Saint Mary's College School of Science professor and astrophysicist Ron Olowin passed away Aug. 5 after a yearlong illness. He was 72. Olowin began teaching at SMC in 1987 and "devoted his life to understanding the cosmos, drawing star-strewn connections between scientific observations, religion and human culture, and sharing his wealth of knowledge with his students," Saint Mary's College President James Donahue wrote in a message to the SMC community.

Olowin, who lived in Lafayette, was not only popular with his students, but was a regular fixture at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, where he regularly spoke as part of the Science Café lecture series. During his career, Olowin published numerous articles in scientific and popular publications, served as a visiting professor and guest lecturer at the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, and received several awards, including the St. John Baptist De La Salle Award, which honors a faculty member for their extraordinary commitment to students, and Professor of the Year in 2008. Donahue noted it was through Olowin's "determined efforts that the Geissberger Observatory was installed on the hill near the cross."

Professor Olowin's funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Saint Mary's College Chapel.

In Memory

Bee Laird Hylinski (Bee Kendall)



A memorial service will be held for Linda "Bee" Laird Hylinski at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at St. Stephens Church in Orinda. She was known to Moraga residents as Bee Kendall when she served on the town council alongside Margaret DePriester. She moved to Rossmoor with her husband Dr. Ralph Hylinski in 2015 where she joined the board of the Rossmoor Republican Club. She graduated from Vassar in 1963 and moved to the Bay Area in 1975. She obtained a law degree and an MBA in tax from Golden Gate University and practiced law for 17 years in Walnut Creek, specializing in tax, estate planning and probate law. After retiring

in 1997 Bee became an artist and author. In 2012, she published "Contract Year: a Baseball Novel." She was totally devoted to the Oakland A's.

– Sophie Braccini, prepared with the help of Dick Olsen.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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Not to be missed

ART

The Lafayette Art and Wine Festival 2017 will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 in downtown Lafayette. An award-winning art, wine and music festival with four live stages, 20+ cover bands, 260+ artists and a KidZone. There will be food, wine and beer. Free admission. Near BART. For more info see www.lafayettefestival.com, call (925) 284-7404 or email festival@lafayettechamber.org.

Valley Art Gallery's featured new artist is Ruth Hussey. For more than 40 years Hussey has concentrated on perfecting her skills, specializing in portraiture, figure and still life paintings. This exhibition will feature her works done in egg tempera, a medium used by many famous masters in the late medieval and early Renaissance periods. The show runs through Sept. 15. For information, visit valleyartgallery.org.

MUSIC

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Mitchell Covington, is seeking experienced choral singers for the 2017-18 season. Fall rehearsals begin Wednesday, Sept. 6. Now beginning its 26th season, Voci is an intimate, high-level treble ensemble of 24+ singers that performs adventurous music from a wide range of historical periods. For more information or to schedule an audition please contact Artistic Director Mitchell Covington at mitchellcovington.com. To learn more about Voci, visit www.vocisings.org.

The Lafayette Studio Big Band will perform an outdoor concert on the back patio surrounded by oak trees from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glen-side Dr, in Lafayette. The suggested donation is \$25 at the event, which includes all refreshments and snacks. No reservations required. For more information, contact the church (925) 283-8304. To hear a sample of the music, visit www.lafayettebigband.com.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra opens its 29th season with "Poetry in Motion" – a lyrical musical journey through Mozart's Overture to the Opera The Abduction from the Seraglio, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with pianist Nat-suki Fukasawa and Schubert's Symphony No. 1 in D Major. Performances will be in the Sanctuary at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16; and in the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17. Tickets are \$10-\$59. Children with paying adult are free. Tickets are available at www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org or at the door.

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents the West Coast Premiere of "Black Odyssey" written by Marcus Gardley and directed by Eric Ting through Sept. 3 at the Bruns Amphitheater located off the Wilder Road exit of Highway 24. There is a free, 20-minute informational Grove Talk starting 45 minutes before each and every performance with plenty of picnic benches. Tickets and exact show times available at www.calshakes.org.

Orinda Starlight Players present Robert Merrill's Five-Door Farce Through Sept. 29 in the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16; Senior \$8. Tickets are available at the Box Office; call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Showtimes: 8:30p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24, and 8p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28. This is an outdoor theatre so dress appropriately and bring blankets.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Shoulder Injuries and Prevention: Is it My Rotator Cuff? This free lecture will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29 at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mount Diablo Boulevard Suite B110 in Lafayette. Learn about the anatomy and applicable biomechanics of the shoulder and how dysfunctions may contribute to pain and functional limitations in one's activities. Rotator cuff injuries, common "wear and tear" and sports injuries will be discussed as well as how to prevent and rehabilitate. For information, visit lafayettept.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

NorCal Kids Triathlon from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 26 at Miramonte High School, Orinda. Each participant swims, bikes and runs the triathlon course, as adjusted for age appropriateness. Age Divisions include: 6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14. All divisions include girls and boys categories. Sign up early so you don't miss out on the fun. Individual registration fee: \$40. For info, visit www.norcalkids.org.

Come to the Community Barbecue sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Safeway from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29 at the Moraga Commons Park. Enjoy hot dogs and burgers and meet chamber members, town staff and your neighbors. The BBQ and is free to attend but please RSVP to kathe@moragachamber.org.

Calling all fifth- through eighth-grade boys; join Boy Scout Troop 244! Troop 224 has been a Lafayette tradition for over 60 years and includes activities for the entire family (yes, siblings and moms, too). If you would like more information about Troop 224, please contact one of the following: Shanti Ariker at sariker100@gmail.com; or Joyce Mirabito @ mirabito@lmi.net.

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) is excited to announce the 12th annual Lamorinda Idol singing competition, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27 at the Orinda Theatre. This community-based event is free to the public, and Idol finalists, kindergarten to 12th grade, will compete throughout the day for the chance to become the next Lamorinda Idols.

Crafts with Valerie at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Open to grades 6-12. Make creative bookmarks and magnets with collage artist Valerie Adinolfi. All materials provided. No registration required.

Calling all local children and young adult book authors to attend the Chalk Walk on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Moraga Commons Park during the Pear and Wine Festival. Each of Moraga's five elementary and middle schools, and Saint Mary's College will be assigned a piece of art or sculpture that is currently located within Moraga. They will research the artist and the piece. During the Chalk Walk, each school will have a 10 x 10 space where students will recreate their assigned piece in their own interpretation. Local children's book authors may reserve a booth space in the vicinity. Booth Space is \$25. For more information and to register go to www.moragachamber.org.

OTHER

Contra Costa Tale Spinners invite you to a story swap with Linda Yemoto to hear folktales and personal stories that help us understand the natural world at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Share, listen, expand your universe.

Ribbon cutting with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 24 for the new Orinda law firm D'Amato Law at 25 Orinda Way, Suite 308, Orinda. The ceremony will take place around 5:30 p.m. Light refreshment will be served.

Coffee with EBMUD Director John Coleman from 8 to 9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25 at the Lafayette City Offices, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Desco Plaza - 2nd Floor, Room 265. More than a million water users in the East Bay will see their rates take a big jump. Ward 2 Director John Coleman voted against the rate hike. The Lafayette Chamber invites you to attend this informal meeting with John to learn about the future of our water supply.

Come join the fun at the first ever Heavenly Treasures Community Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Parking on-site or at nearby Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. Who knows what "treasures" you may find. Contact heavenlytreasurescfm@gmail.com for more info and to sign up.

Start your life-long love affair with a kitty! Community Concern for Cats invites you to meet our precious puss-

cats at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 26 and 27. Locations are Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Come celebrate diversity and promote unity at Soul Food Lamorinda (Fuel for the Mind and Soul) from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Intercultural Center at Saint Mary's College. Soul Food Lamorinda is a free Baha'i-inspired program that combines an audio-visual presentation with readings from various faiths, philosophers and leaders, allowing us to reflect on inspiring themes and reminding us of the oneness of humanity. This month's program, "Reconciliation - Walking Together" will explore the essence of what reconciliation really means, and whether the human heart and soul hold the answers we have been looking for. Free. For more info, visit www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda/.

Introduction to Beekeeping at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Jan Pinkerton Speith from the Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association will introduce the joys of beekeeping. Get a close up look at beekeeping equipment and taste some honey.

The Walnut Creek Aquanats, presents their annual Fall Swim Show Labor Day Weekend starting at 7 p.m. at Clarke Memorial Swim Center in Walnut Creek. The show runs from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3. Come enjoy a spectacular evening event featuring over 100 synchronized swimming athletes and professional guests from ages 5 to 25, beginner to 2012 and 2016 Olympian Mariya Koroleva! Tickets: \$20. For more info, go to www.aquanats.org.

John Tateishi will be teaching a course starting Sept. 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on the interment of Japanese Americans during World War II, their campaign for redress, and the present-day implications of this part of American history. John Tateishi will also be giving an overview of his class at a free info session at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For info, visit olli.berkeley.edu.

The California Independent Film Festival opens Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Visit www.CAIFF.org for full schedule and tickets.

Don't miss the 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend: "Dancing with the Cars." Pre-party, 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 and Classic Car Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9. Enter your car and buy party tickets today at www.OrindaCarShow.com. These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities.

From Spiritual to Material and Back Again, featuring Dr. Anna Gatmon, author of "Living a Spiritual Life in a Material World: Four Keys to Fulfillment and Balance" at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Explore the challenges and treasures of discovering new interior lands. Gatmon's rich life journey has included careers as a fashion model, an educator and a counselor. She holds a doctoral degree in transformative learning from the California Institute for Integral Studies.

GARDEN

CompostSMART Advanced Training Series. Receive over 30 hours of in-depth, hands-on organics recycling education to understand and share the importance of organics recycling, and composting. The free series includes classroom instruction, outdoor training and tours before you share your training with the community to help build healthy urban soils and support thriving landscapes throughout the area. For more information, important dates and application deadline visit www.recyclesmart.org/compostsmart.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club presents "How About A Facelift To Your Yard? What Are Some Things We Can Do To Improve Our Home's Curb Appeal?" at 9:45 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road. Business Meeting at 9:45 a.m.; Social at 10:30 a.m.; Program at 11 a.m.

Film Clips

Martin Landau's last movie to screen at CAIFF

By Derek Zemrak

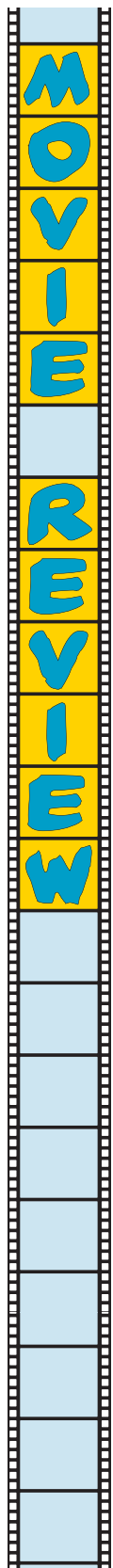


Image provided

With the slogan “Something for Everyone from Around the World,” the California Independent Film Festival is a wonderful experience where you will see films before they are shown in theaters nationwide.

“The Last Poker Game” is one of those movies and it also happens to be Academy Award winner Martin Landau’s last film. I had the opportunity to discuss the movie with Landau before he passed away. He was very proud of “The Last Poker Game,” which was written and directed by first-time filmmaker Howard Weiner. “When I first read it, I really enjoyed it. It was unusual, and it kept unfolding in unpredictable ways,” Landau said.

“The Last Poker Game” tells the story of Dr. Abe Mandelbaum (Landau) who just moved into a new nursing home in Newburyport, Mass., with his ailing wife. After forming an unlikely friendship with a womanizing gambler (Paul Sorvino), their relationship is tested when they each try to convince a mysterious nurse that they are her long-lost father.

Weiner will be in attendance at the Rheem

Theatre screening of “The Last Poker Game” at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8. This will be the film’s California premiere.

Weiner is a professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School where he leads research into new ways to treat multiple sclerosis and other neurologic diseases. “The Last Poker Game” began as an unpublished novel, but after a discussion with his son, Ron, Weiner decided to turn the novel into a risqué movie script about two aging men, Sorvino and Landau, who meet in a brand new nursing home, become friends and get mixed up with a mysterious nurse, Maria Dizzia.

Landau said, “The script showed a doctor’s point of view of a nursing home, instead of a Hollywood point of view of a nursing home. It treated older folks with a little more dignity.”

“The Last Poker Game” received rave reviews at New York’s Tribeca Film Festival when it premiered this past spring.

It has a TRT (total running time) of 85 minutes.

‘The Teacher’ underscores the frailties of human decency

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Set in 1983 in then still communist Czechoslovakia, “The Teacher” – which is being shown as part of the International Film Showcase this week at the Orinda Theatre – is a 2016 Slovak-Czech drama written by Petr Jarchovský and directed by Jan Hřebejk that focuses on human selfishness and cowardice, and how these are used by dictatorships to impose dominance.

The film shows how a teacher uses her position as a communist leader to remorselessly exploit her students and families. The thrill is wondering if parents will revolt or not when the situation becomes out of control and painful for some children.

Not without humor, this riveting film invites the audience to think about the role of bystanders. What would we do or tolerate for the perceived advancement of our children or ourselves? Would we be brave enough to stand up when our values are confronted with extreme social pressure?

The teacher comes in warm and assured, a good motherly but strict woman who will instruct seventh-grade students about history and Russian language. As she introduces herself, she also asks students to say who they are and indicate what their parents are doing, which she carefully jots down in her little notebook. As the film develops, nicely constructed between present and past events, segments of what

happened are revealed, layers are peeled away, and the manipulation of the woman who is protected by her status as a communist delegate emerges.

While the movie is about the teacher and how she abuses her power, it is also about the devastating impact on the tweens, their families, and about the reactions of the parents confronted with this abuse. A large majority of the parents go along with the teacher’s schemes and make excuses for her behavior and theirs. A few revolt – some willingly, others out of their inability to comply. In an interview with Variety, Hřebejk confirmed that the film is a universal metaphor, even if it is based on real facts, and that it is a reflection about the bravery that we have to find within ourselves in current times as well as in the past.

The movie shows the harsh reality of Czechoslovakia in the 1980s. A friend of this reporter who left the country around that time noted that all the little things rang true to her: the fact that the astrophysicist is only allowed to clean windows as a job, which she said was a typical punishment for dissidents; the fact that the teacher arranges installation of the telephone in the horrible apartment of the astrophysicist – a huge deal because people waited for many years, even decades to get the phone line; the scarcity of meat and bone marrow (for soup). But while the film de-

nounces communism, it mostly stigmatizes the compliant behaviors of people who go along with bullying and make it all possible. You see everyday pettiness and selfishness because people are either ignorant, afraid or find their own interest in what is happening. The few brave protesters are sometimes found in the most unexpected places.

Just like bullying where bystanders play such an important role, what is difficult to watch is that the first victims are children, or the more vulnerable among the adults. Some, of course, try to do something, like the school administrators who try to build a case against the teacher, but in the end, when everyone is in denial, the administrators do not want to be heroes and risk their future.

The movie takes place in 1983, six years before the 1989 Velvet Revolution that ended the reign of the Czechoslovak communist regime that started in 1948.

Zuzana Mauréry, who plays the teacher, received a Best Actress award at the Czech Republic International Film Festival. She is indeed terribly menacing with her mix of debonair demeanor and veiled threats. The young actors who play the students do so with emotions and determination.

The film is not without ironic humor, what Hřebejk calls the Czech way of fighting injustice. Attentive viewers will notice that at the end of the movie, after the Velvet Revolution and under the new democratic regime, the teacher is shown teaching English, ethics and religion, with a picture of Václav Havel, president of the Czech Republic adorning the wall. And she still has her same little notebook.

“The Teacher” will open in Orinda on Aug. 25 for one week as part of the International Film Showcase. More information, visit Lamorindatheatres.org.

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<p>August 25</p> <p>Lamorinda Sunrise former Membership Chairman and Sergeant-at-Arms, Dennis Kurimai, will share some interesting stories of his life and how he came to be a member of Rotary.</p>	<p>September 1</p> <p>What does it take to be a Successful Entrepreneur?</p> <p>Come join us and find out from our featured speaker Gigi Wang, a leader in global entrepreneurship and innovation at MG-Team, LLC consulting.</p>
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Delicious summer barbecue fun on a stick

By Susie Iventosch



Lamb Saratoga Chops

Photo Susie Iventosch

When I was a kid, my mom used to fix lamb “Saratogas” for us, especially during the summer barbecue season. I had completely forgotten about them, until something reminded me of them just lately and I tried to find them in the grocery store to no avail. We always enjoyed them and they were fun to eat, too, because it was a long piece of tender and tasty lamb wound into a spiral and held together by a thick wooden skewer. Things on skewers are always fun for kids – kind of like eating pop-sicles!

When I was unsuccessful in locating lamb Saratogas at my local stores, I decided to make them myself, and from my internet search, shoulder meat seemed to be the best part of the lamb to use. So, I picked up a few packages of lamb shoulder and lamb arm shoulder, cut the meat into strips, eliminating a bit of the fat, and fashioned my own Saratogas. Then, after marinating them overnight in a light vinaigrette and red wine with fresh herbs, we

grilled them on the barbecue to medium rare. Eureka! This was exactly how I remembered them from all those years ago. What I later found out is that using the whole shoulder roast, and rolling it first before cutting and skewering it, is probably a lot easier.

Just when I thought I’d re-invented lamb Saratogas, I telephoned Diablo Foods to see if they had shoulder cuts or roasts that would be appropriate for our readers to purchase for making their own Saratogas, and lo and behold, they actually carry them in their meat department. They said the sirloin or shoulder meat are the best cuts to use. Making your own still may be a great idea, because the butcher told me they sell out of their pre-made Saratogas rather quickly.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

Cooking Term of the Week

Lumache

Lumache (pronounced loo-MAH-chay) is an Italian word for snail, and in the cooking world lumache refers to snail-shaped pasta shells that are open on one end and hollow inside, with the shell closing in on itself on the other end. Both thick and chunky sauces work well with lumache as the shell is strong enough to support a chunky sauce while a thinner, more delicate sauce can work its way into the open center of the shell.

Lamb Saratogas

(Serves 4 to 6)

INGREDIENTS

2 pounds lamb sirloin or lamb shoulder meat, boneless if possible
 1/3 cup olive oil
 2-3 tbsp. red wine vinegar
 ¼ cup red wine
 1 tsp. sea salt
 1 tsp. ground black pepper
 1 tbsp. fresh rosemary snipped from stem and roughly chopped
 1 tbsp. fresh thyme leaves
 1 tbsp. fresh basil, chopped
 1 tbsp. fresh mint, chopped (optional)
 8-10 six-inch skewers about 1/8-inch thick
 Mint sauce (Crosse & Blackwell makes this) or mint jelly to serve with meat

DIRECTIONS

If you buy the whole shoulder roast or sirloin, roll the meat into a log, much like a jelly roll cake. You may be able to buy one already rolled. Insert the skewers through the roll every inch or so, and cut through the roll on either side of the skewers, to make about a 1-inch thick chop. If you buy the shoulder chops, you can cut long strips of meat from the chop, eliminating some of the fat and working around any bones, and roll them in a spiral much to the same effect as the log above. It may take more than one strip to make the finished chop 3-4 inches in diameter.

Place the Saratoga chops in a container with a tight-fitting lid.

Mix oil, vinegar, wine, salt, pepper and herbs for the marinade and pour over the chops. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight, turning at least a couple of times.

When ready to serve, remove lamb from marinade and grill to desired doneness. It may take a bit longer to get the very center cooked, so check it before you remove the meat from the grill.

Serve with mint sauce or mint jelly and garnish with a sprig of fresh rosemary or thyme.

Lynn's Top Five

Back to School Specials

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

The first day of school is the day my mom always called the real Mother’s Day! So let’s take advantage of some quiet moments and review my Top Five for this month, all of which share the theme of being kid related financial planning topics.

Sept. 15 is just around the corner! This is an important date for many who are self-employed and those who receive taxable income from investments and other sources with no withholding. It’s also a good time to review your withholding from work, social security and pensions. But I especially mention this to you who may no longer qualify for head of household status and/or who can no longer claim your children as dependents. Check with your tax pro to see if you need to make changes to your withholding or if it would make sense to make an estimated tax payment next month. With just four months left this year, it’s time to get solidly on top of these numbers.

Medical Insurance for college Kids. Many colleges have medical insurance plans for their students. When you review these plans, though, you’ll often find the coverage to be pretty skimpy especially regarding maximum amounts covered. So, if you can afford to keep your children on your plans, or they already have plans of their own, we typically recommend that you keep these in place as long as possible. Take time to review all the limitations, deductibles and particularly focus on exclusions and maximums.

Teenage or college drivers? If so, call your casualty insurance agent to figure out your coverage

needs. For college-bound children this could be especially important. Can you save some premiums by suspending their coverage while they are living away? Or do they need to stay on your policies? If they have a car with them, should you gift them the car and purchase a separate policy for them that doesn’t involve paying to protect your net worth? It’s time to call your agent and have an in-depth conversation about choices, options and best moves.

What’s the plan for next semester’s expenses? No news flash here, but college and private prep schools are expensive! Typically you need to have cash for tuition a semester or more ahead. So it’s time to review where these funds are coming from and if they’ll be taken out of special accounts earmarked for college such as 529 plans, or your general investment portfolio. If your portfolio has benefited from recent markets, you may decide this is a good time to cash in some gains and set aside funds to cover at least the next semester. And don’t forget books, room, board and other miscellaneous expenses. You can also use this as the time to review all your portfolio holdings with an eye toward possible rebalancing. Don’t forget any tax implications before making these decisions.

Raising fiscally intelligent children – Don’t miss this opportunity! With the barrage of homework you get from the schools, it’s easy to run out of steam and not have the time to work with your future adults on financial literacy. For all ages, you can begin with the important life skills of saving for bigger purchases and simple bud-

geting. For teenagers, it’s time to think about a checking and savings account, trusting them with small sums such as the money needed for supplies and clothing, and letting them make their own choices and live with the results. By the time they launch for college, you really want these basic life financial skills to be second nature for them.

Hope this was helpful. Enjoy this amazing time of life with your families!

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Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Football season opens this week

By Jon Kingdon



Acalanes at practice

Photos Gint Federas



Campolindo at practice



Miramonte at practice

With the dog days of summer, a young man's fancy turns to ... football?

That is exactly what has been going on since preseason practice got into full swing for Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte high schools. Besides an optimistic attitude from each of the head coaches, they all say they wish they could have been able to begin their preseason practice

earlier.

Acalanes will be traveling to Orlando, Florida to play their second game of the season on Sept. 2 against Suncoast High School. Head Coach Floyd Burnsed, though excited about the trip, sees this as a real challenge because "Suncoast has been practicing long before we started and they have already been able to scrimmage another team. The

only advantage to us is that I was able to watch a number of their plays off the internet."

With the players familiar with his system, Burnsed expects the offense to be far more efficient this season. Senior quarterback Robbie Rowell, who has been getting inquiries from some Division I schools, is being counted on to lead the Dons' spread offense, which is returning most of its starters from last season.

The front seven for the Acalanes defense returns many starters, but the secondary is a real concern, since losing a number of players through graduation.

According to Burnsed, "We have a chance to be good but we have a very difficult schedule with every team being a potential playoff team."

Burnsed is positive about his starting lineup but "the key is for us to stay healthy at this point. We do not have a lot of depth on the team."

Coming off a successful 2016 season, Campolindo High School is in something of a rebuilding stage.

The key player on offense and defense for head coach Kevin Macy is, strangely enough, the same player. John Torchio, the Cougars' best athlete, started last season as the team's free safety and wide receiver. Macy has named Torchio his quarterback and will continue to have him start as free safety. "It will be a real challenge for John," Macy said. "He did play quarterback as a freshman but was a wide receiver the next two seasons."

The limited preseason preparation is also a telling issue for Macy. With a new quarterback, it takes time for him and his receivers to learn to "synch up with each other." The players were able to participate in the 7-on-7 passing league during the summer. Torchio's key receiver this season should be Vince Mossotti.

Macy will be utilizing a spread offense with multiple formations and is hoping for a balance between his passing and

running game.

The real concern for Campolindo will be on defense, having lost a number of starters through graduation, though many of the potential starters did play a fair amount as backups last season. Macy is relying on linebacker Grant Larsen and defensive end Justin Ehrenberg to provide stability and leadership for this young unit.

Miramonte head coach Jack Schram is faced with replacing his best player from last season: quarterback Tim Tague. Two players have been competing for the starting QB position, Xavier Clark and A.J. Frazier. Clarke is the anticipated starter as he is more familiar with Miramonte's spread offense.

Schram has eight returning starters on both sides of the ball

and is counting on his offense to remain as productive as it was last season. He is looking for "much improvement on defense." He will be relying on senior middle linebacker Sam Walker to provide the leadership for the team's defense.

Schram is also concerned about the limited time for preseason preparation. Starting with his first practice, he said, "Our first game is less than three weeks away."

Acalanes will open its season at home on Aug. 25 against Alhambra High School, while Campolindo opens its season on the road on Aug. 26 at Marin Catholic High School and Miramonte will host Vanden High School out of Fairfield on Aug. 25.

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LMYA SWIM HOSTS the 57th CONTRA COSTA COUNTY MEET

LMYA Swim Team parent volunteers worked tirelessly to host one of the biggest (and fastest) swim meets in the country, the Contra Costa County Swim Championships (aka "County") from August 11-13th at Acalanes High School. For 57 years, the LMYA Swim Team has hosted County and takes great pride in providing a fun, competitive atmosphere for all (56 teams with approximately 2,000 swimmers). Thank you to ALL who volunteered (Announcers, Officials, Stroke & Turn Judges, Timers, etc.). We couldn't do it without you! To join the fun next year, visit www.lmyaswim.com! Registration opens in February for the 2018 summer swim season!!

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following LMYA swimmers for achieving County qualifying times:

GIRLS:

- Bove, Natalie (11/12) – Back, Fly, IM
- Dumais, Claudia (11/12) – Back, Breast, Fly, Free, IM
- Dumais, Giulia (9/10) – Back
- Judson, Catherine (11/12) – Back, Fly, Free, IM
- Kostolansky, Katie (9/10) – Back, Free, IM
- Martin, Audrey (7/8) – Breast
- McSorley, Madden (7/8) – Back, Breast, Fly, Free, IM
- Motes, Anna (7/8) – Back, Breast, Free, IM
- Rivera-Gu, Abby (9/10) – Free, Fly
- Salmon, Morgan (13/14) – Breast, Free
- Smith, Caitlin (13/14) – Fly, Free, IM
- Tumility, Caroline (7/8) – Fly, Free
- Weiss, Kyra (11/12) – Breast, Free
- Wong, Megan (15-18) – Fly, Free, IM

BOYS:

- Chan, Nathan (11/12) – Breast, Free
- Conrad, Casey (15-18) – Back, Free, IM
- Curletto, Alessandro (7/8) – Back, Free
- Goodson, Dean (13/14) – Fly, Free, IM
- Judson, Thomas (15-18) – Back, Fly
- McClane, Jaden (9/10) – Back, Fly, Free
- Popov, Misha (9/10) – Breast, Free, IM
- Salmon, Ian (9/10) – Back
- Salmon, Owen (11/12) – Back, Free, IM
- Smith, Riley (15-18) – Free
- Tsai, Spencer (7/8) – Breast, Free, IM
- Venable, Harley (11/12) – Back, Fly, Free, IM
- Voong, Austin (11/12) – Back, Breast, Fly, Free, IM



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Gold medal-laden middle school track star returns triumphant

By Gerardo F. Recinos



Tyler Hunt at the award ceremony in Kansas.

Photo provided

Soft-spoken runner Tyler Hunt doesn't have to say much in a conversation. Because it sure seems like he'd much rather do his talking on the track.

The Stanley Middle School student returned from Kansas like a mini Michael Phelps, draped with three gold medals (two individual and one team) and multiple All-America honors.

From July 24-30, the meet in Lawrence, Kansas saw Hunt and the rest of the Diablo Valley Track team compete with nearly 10,000 athletes ranging from ages 7 to 18 years old.

Hunt was crowned individually as the National Champion in the boys 11-12 division 800 meters and 1500 meters, and was a part of the team of four that took the 3200-meter relay.

ter relay.

This all from a kid who says himself that he "wasn't really into sports," before he started running track.

And now he's at the Junior Olympics. Setting personal bests in the two events he competed in alone.

"Coach Harlan [Lopez] always gives us a plan, and he said for the

800 every one is going to go out really fast, but by the second lap they'll fade," Hunt said.

He hung around the middle of the pack for his first lap, clocking in at 1:03.25. But his two-lap split was the best of any of his competitors, allowing him to finish in first a clear three seconds before the second place finisher.

In the 1500 meters, Hunt was competing in a heat with 17 other runners and with the congested field, the competition was much stiffer.

So much so that the Stanley Middle School runner only finished 0.03 of a second ahead of second-place finisher Ethan Vander Meer.

The third medal came with the help of teammates Kai Rednour-Bruckman, Tyler Bergren, Trevor Rogers, Alexander Lodewick and Beck Murphy.

With all those accolades it's clear the kid spends a lot of time running. So what does he do when he isn't training for track and field?

Well Tyler Hunt is also an avid soccer fan and player. So even when he's off the track, he's still keeping himself in shape.

And that's a good thing, because his goals for the next year

and beyond could be considered lofty.

First off, the young runner wants to set the top mark at Stanley in the 800 before he graduates, and with a personal record already lingering at the 2:10 mark it seems hard to believe he won't do it.

Especially when you consider that his best time in the event is only 10 seconds off from putting him in the top 10 in the event.

So you have to think that setting the mark at Stanley would only be the first goal marked off his check list, with many more to follow.

But the humble runner shies away from more grandiose aspirations when pressed with the bigger picture.

"It's a bit too far down the line," Hunt says with a smile, when asked if he has thought about breaking records down the line in high school.

But with roughly six years time before he walks across the stage as a graduate at Acalanes High School, his mother Sharon's alma mater, it would seem like there would be very little that could stop Hunt from shaving off the 19 seconds it would take to set the top mark at Acalanes should he choose to continue to chase it.

California Magic 04 girls win championship

Submitted by Jon Zuber



Photo provided

The California Magic 04 girls soccer team claimed the San Luis Obispo Summer Classic Premier Division Championship. The Magic girls went 4-0 defeating teams from Southern

and Central California for the title. The Magic girls showed excellent passing, teamwork and execution were able to show what they have been working on this season.

Lamorinda Soccer Club '07 Girls win the Championship

Submitted by Jean-Paul Cozzatti



Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club '07 Girls bested the Pleasanton Rage 07 Premier 3-1 to win the Champion-

ship for second year in a row at Stanford Summer Classic in Sunnyvale, California.

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680 Women's Water Polo wins JO National Championship

Submitted by Pam Drake



Lamorinda team members include Katrina Drake, Grace Tehaney, Carson Broad and Kelly Murphy. These four (pictured above) will play together for Miramonte High School. Photo provided

The 680 Drivers U18 Women's Water Polo team won the Junior Olympic National Championship playing between July 26-30 in Irvine, California. In addition this great team was undefeated all year.

In the final game versus SoCal, 680 trailed in the fourth quarter, but managed to

come back and gain the lead and hold off SoCal with great defense to the end. The final score was 7-6. Ava Johnson had five goals, Grace Tehaney had one goal and Sarah Klass had one goal. Roxy Wheaton was named MVP for the tournament.

Moraga Baseball 9-year-old All Stars Win 5th Annual Lafayette Buckeye Classic

Submitted by Kelly Rossi



Pictured front row from left: Ryan Schwartz, Landi Giordani, Cameron Mayo, Lucas Cano, Jack Braun, Brody Reed; middle row: Tyler Rodgers, Cole Fischer, Maddox Johnson, Luke McLeod, Carson Rossi, Ty Madsen; back row: coaches Drew Fischer, Brad Rogers, Patrick Rossi; not pictured: Everett Zellmer, coach Kevin Zellmer

Photo Kelly Rossi

Teams from Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, Clayton, Alameda and Oakland enjoyed great competition & sportsmanship at the 5th Annual Buckeye Classic baseball tourna-

ment hosted by Lafayette Little League. The Moraga Baseball Association's 9U All Star team won their age group during the championship game on July 19.

Jaksic on top at MCC tennis tournament

By John T. Miller

Serbian native Jovana Jaksic dominated the Heritage Bank of Commerce Open Tennis Championships, winning all three of her events at the Moraga Country Club last week.

In addition to women's singles, Jaksic teamed with former pro and University of Florida graduate Allie Will to win the women's doubles. Nick Andrews, a former All-American at UC

Berkeley, joined her in the winner's circle in the mixed doubles.

For the second year in a row, Brazilian native Karue Sell won the men's singles event. The former UCLA star also teamed up

with current UCLA athlete Austin Rapp to take the men's doubles.

Luke Bohuslav, former Miramonte student who recently graduated from Loyola Marymont,

had the best showing of Lamorinda locals, winning two matches before losing to No. 9 seed Reese Stadler.

Nearly a thousand spectators viewed the weeklong event.

2017 Contra Costa County Championship Meet

Combined Team Scores - Division I

Place	Team	Points
1	Crow Canyon Country Club Sea L	2,563.50
2	Round Hill Country Club	1,908.50
3	Dana Hills Swim Team	1,699
4	Scottsdale Swim Team	1,457.50
5	Springbrook Swim Team	1,435
6	Orinda Country Club	1,153
7	Blackhawk Swim Team	1,110
8	Del Amigo	989.50

Combined Team Scores - Division II

Place	Team	Points
1	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	937
2	Sleepy Hollow Legends	883.50
3	Forest Park Swim Team	850.50
4	Rancho San Miguel	830
5	Walnut Country Stingrays	598
6	Meadow Swim Team	519
7	Diablo Swim Team	494
8	Larkey Sharks	460
9	Moraga Country Club	455
10	Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team	439
11	San Ramon Aquacats	436
12	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	422
13	Sycamore Stingrays	393
14	Walnut Creek Swim Club	355
15	Benicia Stingrays	290
16	Ygnacio Wood	215.50
17	Woodlands	186

Combined Team Scores - Division III

Place	Team	Points
1	Las Trampas Swim Team	327
2	Pinole Seals Swim Team	267
3	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	257
4	Dewing Park Swim Team	205
5	Indian Valley Swim Team	201
6	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	187.50
7	Walnut Heights Otters	171
8	Oakhurst Country Club	153
9	Orinda Park Pool Swim Team	151
10	Pleasant Hill Aquatics	149
11	Livorna Dolphins Swim Team	132
12	Rudgear Estates Swim Team	129
13	Aquaknights	118
14	Gehring Park Swim Team	115
15	Martinez Community Swim Team	107
16	Danville Sea Devils	95.50
17	Miramonte Swim Club	86
18	Ahi Swim Team	85
18	Springwood Swim Team	85
20	Moraga Ranch Swim Club	78
21	Hercules Piranhas Swim Team	67
22	Oakwood Athletic Club	59.50
23	Forest Hills Swim Team	49
24	Brentwood Dolphins Swim Club	44
25	Antioch Delta Skimmers	40
25	Bishop Estates Swim Team	40
27	Crockett Swim Team	30
28	Vista Diablo Dolphins	5
29	Club Sport San Ramon Marlins	4



Photos Gint Federas



15-18 Men's 400 Free Relay Champions. Sleepy Hollow Legends, 3:14.79. Left to right are: Narayan Sharma, Christian Meckfessel, Leo Berkman, and Grayson Meckfessel. Photo provided by Amy Meckfessel

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K-2 SOLOISTS
 Xavier Grossi
 Riyana Habarakada
 Sanya Rawat

3-5 SOLOISTS
 Lucia Capozzi
 Olivia Chinn
 Clara Grenning
 Janie Hollerbach
 Audrina Kang
 Clea Lee
 Mina Lim
 Charlotte Nick
 Sadie Poole
 Isabelle Porcella
 Elle Rodriguez
 Katie Welch

6-8 SOLOISTS
 NeJla Ackdoe-Pagey
 Lleyton Allen
 Grace Barmmer
 Zenaida Chapman
 Amelia Chen
 Alec Home
 Isabelle Katz
 Juneaux Maeder
 Alex Meckes
 Valentina Navarro-Marsili
 Kaitlyn Roach
 Marianna Sitzmann

9-12 SOLOISTS
 Elizabeth Becker
 Jessykah Frank
 Evan Gabrielson
 Arriana Glenn
 Kiera Glenn
 Avery Hansen
 Maggie Heiskell
 Lydia Jung
 Michaela Sasner

K-5 GROUPS
3 DEGREES OF HAPPY
 Katherine Eberts
 Mina Lim
 Lila Moss

FOURTE
 Claire O'Connor
 Sadie Poole
 Natalie Schroeder
 Katie Welch

THREE AMIGAS
 Maya Abughosh
 Genet Dutto
 Sophia Kan

6-8 GROUPS
 5, 6, 7, 8
 Paige Towery
 Arta Benetti
 Sofie Foster
 Molly Keliher-Burke
 Eliza Loventhal
 Stephanie Moore
 Bella Starbuck

DEUCE
 NeJla Ackdoe-Pagey
 Grace Barmmer

THE LINE UP
 Brody Crouch
 Zac Faber
 Lorenzo Nazzari
 Tucker Starbuck
 Benjy Braunstein
 Jack Flitter

9-12 GROUPS
 ABC
 Lleyton Allen
 Elizabeth Becker
 Jenni Coletta

FRED'S FRIENDS
 Arriana Glenn
 Jen McFarlane

SAMANTHA AND MAX
 Samantha Martin
 Max Tatem

STEPH AND LAUREN
 Stephanie Liu
 Lauren Stadt

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

11:00 - 12:30 PM	GRADES K-2 AND 3-5 SOLOISTS
1:00 - 2:30 PM	GRADES K-5, 6-8 AND 9-12 GROUPS
3:15 - 4:30 PM	GRADES 6-8 SOLOISTS
5:00 - 6:15 PM	GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS
7:00 - 7:30 PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 23, 2017



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

Create an outdoor oasis with smaller pools and backyard living spaces

By Paula King



This small pool with an integrated spa utilizes maximum space.

Photo Andy Scheck

When Scott and Stephanie Barmmer moved into their Broadview Terrace home over a decade ago, their backyard requirements were minimal landscaping, play areas for their three young children and a fence for the steep slope. Now that they have three teenagers, the couple wanted to upgrade the yard into another living area, so it would be an inviting gathering spot for their children and their friends.

“We wanted to build a space that was an extension of the house,” said Scott Barmmer.

In 2007, they hired Orinda’s Garden Lights Landscape and Pool Development to complete their simple backyard project. Then this past spring, Garden Lights returned to add a vineyard on the slope, high-quality artificial sod, an outdoor kitchen, fire pit and a modern swimming pool.

Even though the Barmmers just have a 21-by-15 foot pool, it reflects many of the recent swimming pool trends in Lamorinda. The Barmmer’s home is no exception to the incredible views that are almost the norm in Lamorinda homes and Garden Lights owner and designer Stephen Lambert wanted the vanishing edge pool to be an ideal place to take in the spectacular view of Mt. Diablo there.

“Their backyard project is like adding three more rooms to the home. People are trying to live outdoors more now,” Lambert said.

According to Lambert, the Barmmer’s project bucks the notion that you can’t place a pool in a smaller yard. He said there is definitely a trend to build smaller pools in yards that aren’t spacious and he has designed three smaller pools in Lamorinda alone this year.

“It (the pool) is big enough that the kids can jump into it feet first,” said Barmmer.

Lambert calls the smaller pools “spools.” He noted that it is important that a pool not overwhelm the yard and “spools” are ideal for not being too immense.

“Homeowners are thinking about design and flow,” Lambert said. “It is important to look at it as a holistic thing.”

... continued on page D4





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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	21	\$800,000	\$6,500,000
MORAGA	12	\$435,000	\$1,975,000
ORINDA	20	\$910,000	\$3,250,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 9 Arbor Way, \$1,033,000, 3 Bdrms, 1652 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-21-17
- 1149 Bacon Way, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$394,000, 05-15-97
- 50 Circle Creek Court, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-19-17;
Previous Sale: \$202,500, 07-18-96
- 1305 El Curtola Boulevard, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-13-17;
Previous Sale: \$252,500, 08-30-95
- 1110 Estates Drive, \$2,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 2951 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 7-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 12-03-13
- 1678 Glen Oak Court, \$1,201,000, 4 Bdrms, 2380 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-13-17;
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 03-30-88
- 3273 Helen Lane, \$1,481,000, 4 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$612,000, 02-15-02
- 3705 Highland Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 06-20-07
- 1038 Leland Drive, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1228 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$689,000, 04-10-09
- 3411 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1522 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 07-25-06
- 699 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-13-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 10-23-14
- 1253 Panorama Drive, \$1,905,000, 5 Bdrms, 3703 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-18-17;
Previous Sale: \$230,500, 04-08-83
- 110 Promintory Lane, \$2,225,000, 5 Bdrms, 3979 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$2,001,000, 08-09-13
- 1259 Redwood Lane, \$6,500,000, 6 Bdrms, 6453 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 7-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$4,595,000, 08-28-06
- 1991 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1789 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-11-17
- 3106 Sandalwood Court, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2159 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-6-17
- 3155 Stanwood Lane, \$1,645,000, 4 Bdrms, 2732 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-7-17
- 1471 Sunset Loop, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 954 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-19-17
- 3 Via Oneg, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3712 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-17-17
- 995 Victoria Court, \$1,345,000, 3 Bdrms, 1509 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-18-17;
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 07-01-14
- 3227 Withers Avenue, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1914 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$486,000, 06-30-

MORAGA

- 6 Baltusrol Street, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 7-11-17;
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 11-07-11
- 1357 Camino Peral #C, \$435,000, 1 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-21-17;
Previous Sale: \$42,500, 08-13-76
- 1411 Camino Peral, \$723,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-6-17;
Previous Sale: \$523,000, 07-24-13
- 10 Crockett Drive, \$1,975,000, 5 Bdrms, 3831 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-11-17;
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 05-22-98
- 2133 Donald Drive #9, \$460,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$185,000, 09-28-11

... continued on page D11

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Hello Lamorinda!

I have received several phone calls from clients who are considering selling their home in the spring. Now is the perfect time to start laying the groundwork for a successful sale. This is especially true in Lamorinda where the spring market has gotten progressively earlier. It is more important than ever to start making your to-do list now if you want to take advantage of this typically strong early selling market.

I always suggest that sellers spend time de-cluttering and getting rid of things that they no longer use or need. Consider donating your unwanted treasures to deserving local non-profits. Thinning out your possessions shouldn't be an overwhelming exercise and is a good habit to get into regardless of whether or not you are planning to move.

Now is also the time to start getting quotes, picking finishes and lining up contractors if you plan to make updates to your home prior to selling. Make sure that you consult with your Realtor® throughout this process to ensure that you are making choices that will appeal to current buyers. It is important to make sure that the money you put into upgrades will translate into higher profits upon sale. When the budget for repairs and upgrades is limited, a simple coat of paint can go a long way to brightening up your home.

I also highly recommend sellers pre-inspect their home so there is time to make repairs or disclose any defects before going to market. The home inspector will provide clearly written reports describing the condition of the home and highlighting any areas of concern. If you are not in a position to address the items flagged by the inspector, it may be a good idea to get quotes for their repair and include them in your disclosures.

And finally, take a good look at what your home is worth before you go full speed ahead by seeking the advice of a local Realtor® who understands the nuances of the Lamorinda market. They can help you to evaluate your situations and make sure your expectations are realistic and that a move makes financial sense.



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Create an outdoor oasis with smaller pools and backyard living spaces ... continued from page D1



The motorized pool cover helps to keep the heat in and debris out.

Photo Andy Scheck

The Broadview Terrace home's new pool features glass tiles with accents of abalone shells in the design scheme. Hiring a pool designer like Lambert can make choices such as selecting a color scheme much simpler by providing a limited number of options based on their knowledge of the homeowner's personality and taste.

"Pools today are not like the pools of the past," Lambert said. "Hiring a designer is the way to go. Pool builders don't have the training for the overall design and look of a project."

For years, Garden Lights was designing pools but not building them. To date, they have managed about 30 pool projects in Lamorinda including their newest one in Orinda's Lost Valley with a natural shape, water

feature and glass tile.

In recent years, Lambert has been seeing a desire for larger hot tubs and saltwater pools, which he noted offer several benefits.

"They are better for your skin and it is a giant water softener," he said.

Another extension of modern pool design is an outdoor kitchen to complement the entertaining vibe of pools. The Barmmer's kitchen has a mini-refrigerator, cooling drawers, an ice maker and a large grill.

"It brings people together to gather," Barmmer said. "That was what we wanted."

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Feng Shui

Space clear your student's study area

By Michele Duffy



Like this Lafayette home, creating a nourishing study area with soothing colors, proper lighting and placing the desk in the "Commanding Position" will give your student a fresh start this year.

Photo provided

The start of a new school year is the perfect time to restore positive feng shui to our living environments, and space clearing – which has the same goal and function of energy management and refreshment – is the perfect place to start.

If your student is a straight-A wiz kid, space clearing will mindfully create a set of renewed intentions for the student's continued success, with perhaps an intention for better balance between work, self-care, and play this school year. Space clearing also helps clear out the old cobwebs, disappointments, and failures of the past and creates a fresh energetic new start for your student. Think of what needs improvement, what you want to amplify and what you want to minimize with your student. Where our children study matters, and refreshing that space energetically is a great way to help them get off on the right foot in a new school year. Once you have re-

freshed the space with positive intentions for a fresh start then turn your attention to the more mundane aspects of uplifting the study area.

The most important part of a space clearing ceremony is to create positive intention, calm your heart and mind, and proceed mindfully for best results. The following tips will help your students maintain a healthy relationship to learning, their studies, daily responsibilities, and self-care:

First, where is the study located in your home? If your student studies at a busy thoroughfare, like a kitchen counter or dining room table, consider moving the study area to a more secluded quieter spot, like their bedroom. Creating calm will be more conducive to concentrating and retaining the homework material.

Depending on the age of your student, try to involve them in some of the decisions, including desk type, light-

ing design, or wall colors in the study room, but remember the goal is to maintain or improve performance, so don't allow their input to derail the bigger goals.

Try to encourage your student to forego distractions such as TVs, music, and laptops displaying distracting content unrelated to their studies. Unless they actually need their phones or laptops for homework, encourage them to leave them with you till their homework is complete. There is new data noting the negative effects of tech devices on our children's ability to focus, display empathy, and retain what they have learned, based on total screen time. Most pediatricians will recommend no more than two hours a day of screen time and many of our children exceed that regularly, which can certainly impact their grades.

Next, make sure that where your student is studying is clean, organized and tidy. If it is the bedroom in which they sleep, try to get them into the habit of making the bed and tidying up before they leave for school so when they return home, the study environment is receptive and welcoming.

In the study room take some time to see that everything has a place, and review the functionality of the storage or organization system in place for ways to inexpensively improve and upgrade. Look for ways to keep the study desk itself as clean as possible to aid in concentration and focus.

Where is the placement of the desk? First to place any desk, and especially your students' desk, in the commanding position so that they are seated facing the door to the room. The commanding position is a recurring feng shui theme. The subliminal message is one receives more support with a solid wall behind your back, like a mountain, and so the feeling of being in the most powerful spot aids whatever tasks we set out to do from that spot. Looking out from the desk into the broadest expanse of the room will also help expand and inspire creative thought. Never place the desk pushed up against a wall. Facing a wall will lead to feeling blocked. Sitting at the desk with one's back to the door will also adversely affect concentration, if we are jumpy or uncertain about who is entering – another reason for your student to face the door.

... continued on page D10

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Feng Shui

Space clear your student's study area

... continued from page D8

Finally, make sure the lighting in the study room is bright and plentiful. It's also helpful to try and create inspiration with the imagery that surrounds your student. What is currently on the walls? Especially the wall across from where they sit at the desk. Place an inspirational nature scene, a graphic of admirable people or a favorite subject of your student. Students may think more expansively, artistically, and logically with all-important time to rest and daydream, too. Bring life into the space with a few oxygen producing green leafy plants, like jade or fiddle palms, to stimu-

late the growth and development of your student in their studies this year.

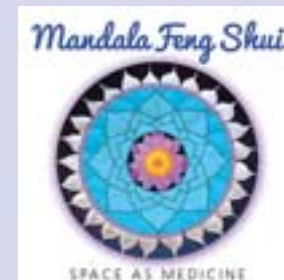
There are plenty of reasons to think about making sure that your study area is compliant when it comes to feng shui. If the room is set up so the student is comfortable, supported and relaxed, it may have a surprising effect on the results. Applying some of these easy-to-do small adjustments will make a significant impact and help to create a more welcoming study environment.

Get back to the basics and have fun creating an inspiring, calming and healthy study space for your student.

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KNOWLEDGE & SELFCULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue	CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

The Bagua Map: Front Door

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2017 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 264 Draeger Drive, \$1,564,000, 4 Bdrms, 2790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$505,000, 12-10-87
- 13 Kendall Circle, \$1,479,000, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 7-5-17
- 23 Kendall Circle, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 1965 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 7-3-17
- 4 Merrill Drive, \$1,830,000, 5 Bdrms, 3132 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 7-6-17;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 07-16-96
- 139 Miramonte Drive, \$785,000, 2 Bdrms, 1742 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-11-17
- 1194 Moraga Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1802 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 09-09-94
- 1825 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 7-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$931,500, 03-15-12

ORINDA

- 10 Bates Boulevard, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-12-17
- 411 Camino Sobrante, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2975 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-21-17;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-08-97
- 629 Cross Ridge Terrace, \$1,807,000, 4 Bdrms, 3131 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 7-7-17
- 6 Eastwood Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$962,500, 07-09-07
- 77 Estates Drive, \$2,540,000, 4 Bdrms, 3548 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-18-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,405,000, 05-26-10
- 5 Fleetwood Court, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$63,000, 08-19-76
- 8 Harran Circle, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$692,000, 03-31-00
- 86 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,770,000, 5 Bdrms, 2625 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 09-19-02
- 153 Ivy Drive, \$1,035,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-12-17
- 22 Ivy Drive, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$796,000, 04-04-03
- 12 La Cintilla, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 3423 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 12-14-84
- 85 La Encinal, \$1,005,000, 2 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-10-17;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 06-23-09
- 10 Las Palomas, \$2,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 3832 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-19-17;
Previous Sale: \$2,283,000, 12-15-15
- 48 Michael Lane, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 3788 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-11-17;
Previous Sale: \$470,000, 11-07-97
- 731 Miner Road, \$3,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 5185 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-19-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 02-28-14
- 47 Mira Loma Road, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-13-17
- 11 Orchard Road, \$1,782,000, 4 Bdrms, 2788 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 7-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,232,000, 04-10-12
- 69 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-12-17
- 29 Tappan Lane, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2227 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-14-17
- 73 Tara Road, \$1,560,000, 3 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-7-17

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Dancing Naked Ladies and strutting wildlife

By Cynthia Brian

"Those who danced were thought insane by those who could not hear the music." ~Unknown



Deep pink Naked Ladies flanked by midnight blue agapanthus and purple crape myrtle

Photos Cynthia Brian

Can you hear the music? Or are you insane?

Dancing in the breeze, Naked Ladies are South African natives in the *Amaryllis belladonna* family with bare, unadorned stems that turn their faces to the sunshine. The long straight necks and the perfect pink throats of the Naked Ladies brighten every late summer landscape. In our climate they bloom at the same time as agapanthus, making for a lovely yin yang interaction of pinks and blues. When little else is blooming in the blazing summer sun, and the deer have dined on garden delicacies, the toxic bulbs of Naked Ladies can always be counted on to put on a brilliant ballet.

In winter and spring the bulbs grow leaves that are glossy and spear shaped, often mistaken for agapanthus. By summer the leaves have died back and only the heads of the bulbs can be seen. Miraculously one morning you'll walk into your garden to witness a sprouted leafless stem, soon followed by a pretty pink face. Naked Ladies will bloom for four to six weeks, swaying to the music of the wind. As soon as the blooms fade, cut the stalk back to the ground. Since the plant is now dormant, this is the time to divide the clumps to replant bulbs wherever you want a patch of Naked Ladies

for the next year. If you scatter the fresh seeds from the dried flowers, they may germinate in as little as two weeks, but will take as many as six years to flower.

Naked Ladies are not fussy at all. They can be planted in gravel, dirt, or enriched soil as long as they are planted in the sunshine. They will last for many years with little to no care. Once established they require minimal water, thus they are a great flowering solution to drought inclined climates. A single bulb will multiply into a clump of bulbs, yet the clumps don't travel far. When the clumps are bare, they resemble a turtle's back. It is best to plant in groups. If you plant in rows, they will remain in rows until you transplant the bulbs elsewhere. *Amaryllis belladonna* are also spectacular long-lasting cut flowers.

Naked Ladies are not the only specimens strutting their stuff in our yards. Raccoons, deer, skunks, coyotes, squirrels and turkeys are in unafraid abundance this August. As I approached my home driving from work, a family of three deer polished off my gladioli on my driveway. I see them daily roaming the neighborhood munching on every edible while coyotes provide a nightly chorus of howling

from the hills. Outside my back door, a skunk sniffed in search of food. No sooner had the skunk slinked away empty handed than a huge raccoon pranced onto the patio, also seeking dinner. Both nocturnal creatures are gorgeous to admire from behind glass but are not to be approached as they dance in the dark. (I snapped photos instead.) Make sure to remove any pet food from outside and tighten garbage can lids to avert their nightly invasions. The squirrels have been ravaging the grapevines. The grapes are not quite ripe but are certainly sweet and delicious to those bushy tailed rodents. Since I can't control the parade of turkeys flying into my garden, I've learned to admire their dances. Sometimes two or more families with two-dozen chicks will trot across the plot, scratching, clucking, yelping, purring, flapping and gobbling. My reward for allowing them into my space is a collection of beautiful feathers to adorn my creations.

Take a peak outside and listen to the music. Nature is dancing.

"Great dancers are not great because of their technique – they are great because of their passion." ~Martha Graham

... continued on next page



A cluster of dancing deep pink Naked Ladies.



A clump of Naked Lady bulbs with stems shooting up



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide

MOSQUITO WATCH: Did you know that mosquitoes are the most deadly creatures on the planet? Except for Maine, West Nile Virus transmitted by mosquitoes has been reported in all the states of the continental United States. Zika is the most recent mosquito-borne disease to infect humans and cause birth defects. In Asia, Japanese encephalitis is deadly and malaria has been a global killer for centuries. As vectors for diseases they also transmit dengue fever, chikungunya, and dog heartworm. Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide. People with high metabolisms create more CO₂ and attract more mosquitoes. What can you do to keep these pesky, biting, disease-filled flyers away?

- Empty all standing water from any vessel.
- Add mosquito dunks to ponds or fountains. Vector Control gives free mosquito fish to pond owners. Call (925) 771-6192.
- Apply DEET to all exposed skin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that oil of lemon eucalyptus can be as effective as low doses of DEET, however, it needs to be reapplied every 15 to 20 minutes.
- Sunscreen-repellent combinations are not as effective and are not recommended.
- Repellent clothing such as Insect Shield is worthwhile. (www.insectshield.com)

If you are planning a trip and you'd like to know how to protect yourself from these pests visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Traveler Health page. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

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Close-up of Dinner Plate Dahlia

Photos Cynthia Breian



Pink Crape Myrtle



Stick your nose into a fragrant magenta rose.



Hanging basket of yellow striped and red petunias add dazzle to the field of daisies.



Cynthia Brian in the garden

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PHOTOGRAPH the crape myrtle trees that are in their full flush of blooms this month.

DEEP-SOAK redwood and magnolia trees, especially during hot weather.

CALL Vector Control before 7 a.m. Monday through Friday at (925) 771-6192 if you trap or need to trap a skunk. Along with rats, voles, moles, gophers and raccoons, skunks are in abundance this year. Vector Control can advise you about all of these creatures but it only offers removal services for skunks and yellow jackets.

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1 Hidden Lane Well maintained Sleepy Hollow home - custom built by original owner of quality craftsmanship. Lovely view setting. Vaulted ceilings, large windows and patio doors lead to private setting of spectacular sunset views. **\$1,455,000**

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5 Hilary Way Beautiful apx. 2854 sq. ft. home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Highlights include updated kitchen with stainless appliances. Close to elementary school and Rim Trail. **\$1,649,000**

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New Listing

2 Scenic Drive Exquisite custom estate in sought-after Glorietta neighborhood. Meticulously expanded & renovated by the artist owner. Fabulous kitchen opens to family room w/ French doors leading to patio & enchanting gardens. **\$1,995,000**

ORINDA



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50 Orchard Road Fabulous 1930's Hacienda style with exquisite charm! Pool, spa, putting green and garden inside central courtyard. Updated kitchen with wine cellar, media room, and private master suite. **\$2,095,000**

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136 Manzanita Drive Exquisite Spanish revival style built new in 2008 with exquisite charm inside & outside. New professional custom landscaping on private, beautiful, sun splashed level acreage. Close to town, commute & top schools. **\$2,395,000**

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10 Winding Lane A setting like no other. A tasteful estate situated up a winding lane of 8.6 acres. 3 main structures of apx. 23,422 sq.ft. with Main Residence, Carriage House & Sports Complex. Handcrafted features. **\$16,500,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

15 Tia Place Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on cul-de-sac. Great location near schools and park. **\$1,195,000**

MORAGA



1031 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Horse lover's dream home! Rancho Dos Rios is a 10.51 acre ranch w/ apx. 3,432 sq.ft., 4bd, 2.5ba home, detached 4 car gar. w/ apx. 1,018 sf in-law apt, pool, 2 stall barn w/ paddocks, arena, mare-motel, 2 pastures. **\$1,995,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

603 Huntleigh Drive Live in the heart of the fabulous Burton Valley neighborhood. Charming Marchant ranch, apx. 1749 sq. ft. with 4 beds, 2 baths. Lovely hardwood floors throughout, vaulted living room ceiling & spacious level yard. **\$1,195,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3176 Surmont Drive Casual, elegant and inspired by Mid-Century Mountain home design, this amazing property has a 2642 sqft, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath residence, plus spacious decks and patios, pool, spa and fabulous outdoor pavilion. **\$1,295,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3094 Hedaro Court Totally updated top quality 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2579 sq ft home with dual panes, Carrera marble kitchen/baths, open floor plan. Level lot, small court. Great entertaining inside & out! **\$1,298,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

18 Toledo Court Great Happy Valley neighborhood! .94 acre private setting at end of cul-de-sac with level yard, 2 tennis courts. High ceiling, walls of glass, large living & dining rms, kitchen opens to family rm, bonus rm. Top schools. **\$1,950,000**

LAFAYETTE



1200 Glen Road Happy Valley Glen contemporary with fabulous views of Reservoir & hills. Updated kitchen & baths. 5 bedrooms + library + bonus room + full apartment attached. Close to town, BART. **\$2,375,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Price

4015 Happy Valley Road Rare opportunity to own elegant French Country home in prestigious Happy Valley. Classic 2 story, apx. 6,011 sq.ft., 5 beds, 5.5 baths, flat .97 acre, saltwater infinity-edge pool/spa, outdr kitchen & pergola. **\$4,895,000**

ALAMO



212 Dorchester Lane Incredible setting in Stonegate w/ stunning views of Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Updates throughout! Gorgeous kitchen! Spacious master suite on main level! Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & more! **\$2,195,000**

DANVILLE



New Listing

127 Lawnview Circle Desirable community. Charming & updated throughout w/new flooring, custom paint, granite counter-tops, stainless appliances & updated baths. Spacious private patio, over-sized 2 car garage. Lush landscaping. **\$699,000**



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